Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-88-205 *24 October 1988*

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Cuba

Castro Attends Award Ceremony for Athletes

FL2110145088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro attended an award ceremony for Cuban athletes at the FAR's Universal Hall last night. The ceremony was for the Cuban delegation that was supposed to participate in the 24th Olympic Games and did not go to Seoul in order to express solidarity with the cause of cohosting the games.

Kim Chang-ho, special envoy from the brother country of the DPRK, read his government's resolution granting the Friendship Order, second grade, to a group of eight Cuban sports officials headed by Jose Ramon Fernandez, alternate member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo and vice president of the Council of Ministers. This honor was also granted to Conrado Martinez Corona, president of INDER [National Institute for Sports, Physical Education and Recreation]; Manuel Gonzalez Guerra, official of the Cuban Olympic Committee; and five other comrades from the Cuban sports institute.

The Friendship Medal was also given to 213 athletes, trainers, and other sports representatives who formed our delegation to the Olympic Games. All the awards were given by members of the DPRK diplomatic mission in Cuba.

Javier Sotomayor, the high jump record holder, spoke on behalf of those given awards and emphasized the high honor bestowed on all who received the decorations.

Upon the conclusion of the ceremony, Fidel and the Korean comrades held friendly chats with the athletes.

Reception for Athletes, Leaders

PA2210235288 Havana International Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] The development of friendly relations between the peoples of Cuba and the DPRK was exhibited last night during a reception hosted by the Asian country's embassy for Cuban athletes, leaders, and government officials.

The reception was held 1 day after President Kim Il-song's special envoy, Communications Minister Kim Yong-chae [name and title as received], presented medals and awards to [Cuban] athletes and leaders.

During the reception, the DPRK's extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador to Cuba, Pak Chung-kuk, stated that the Cuban athletes did not go to Seoul because revolutionary principles and solidarity with the Korean people were more precious than mud-stained medals.

Attending this activity were President Kim Il-song's special envoy, Communications Minister Kim Yong-chae, and PCC Politburo member Armando Hart Davalos.

U.S. 'Disinformation Campaign' in L.A. Scored

PA2310204188 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Oct 88

["Our America" commentary, read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] One of the main topics discussed by the more than 100 journalists and guests attending the recently concluded fifth meeting of the FELAP [Federation of Latin American Journalists] in Mexico is the campaign of disinformation and destabilization against some Latin American democratic, progressive governments.

Although that is not the only problem journalists are facing, it is a definite reality in Latin America, and specifically in Panama and Nicaragua.

The Panamanian delegation to the FELAP meeting assessed the scope of the intense U.S. disinformation campaign and psychological war against Panama. The Panamanian representatives adopted the right position, because Panama is the target of increased propaganda supported by the U.S. media. Panama Defense Forces Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega is the target of that escalation.

The propaganda attack, however, conceals the real effects of U.S. harassment of Panama, which amounts to an economic siege that has impoverished the Panamanian people.

The U.S. attack on Panama also hides the fact that Washington is attacking Panama because the latter refuses to support aggressive plans against Nicaragua and zealously defends the strict fulfillment of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

The dissemination of distorted news concerning Panama and Nicaragua—to mention only two examples—is conducted through U.S. official media directly controlled by the White House and the U.S. Information Agency, USIA. To support its propaganda campaign, the United States also uses the so-called great independent press; newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations, and press agencies, which are at the service of the establishment [preceding word in English].

U.S. psychological warfare and the various methods of distorting the truth and sowing confusion and doubt are organized through those media. In addition, the recipients of this information are kept in complete ignorance and the American people believe things that are very far from true.

As a result, disinformation is hidden behind the so-called bourgeois freedom of expression and objectivity prevailing in the United States. In truth, disinformation turns millions of Third World peoples into passive readers, listeners, and television viewers who know a lot about what is currently in vogue in London and Washington and little or nothing about the traditions of their native countries.

A new international information order is increasingly necessary to stop the great press manipulated by developed, capitalists countries from monopolizing the information channels to the Third World.

'For Free Art' Dissident Reportedly Arrested

PA2110155988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0601 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] Havana, 20 Oct (AFP)—Armando Araya Garcia, leader of the illegal For Free Art [Pro Arte Libre] group, was arrested in Havana tonight as he was about to lay a floral wreath to commemorate Cuban Culture Day. This was confirmed by the AFP correspondent at the site of the incident.

Araya and four other members of the dissident group were arrested after trying to speak to about a dozen people gathered at the Los Almendros Park in front of the jail—today a national monument—in which national hero Jose Marti was imprisoned.

Several dozen people, who were shouting "long live the revolution," rushed toward the group when Araya raised a banner with the For Free Art acronym.

The police rapidly intervened and the dissidents were placed in a patrol car.

Since its establishment in August, the group has split into two factions, one led by Armando Araya and the other by Pablo Roberto "Pupo" Sanchez and Juan Enrique Garcia.

According to a spokesman for the group, Garcia was arrested Tuesday night and there is no news about "Pupo" Sanchez.

Six Arrested for 'Provocative Activities'

FL2110154588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] The National Revolutionary Police reported that around 1930 yesterday evening approximately one dozen persons hostile to the revolution began provocative activities at the park located on Carcel Street between Prado and Martires Avenue, next to the monument to the national hero.

Immediately and spontaneously, persons in the area gave a revolutionary and strong response by holding a meeting to express their repudiation of and combativeness toward such acts.

As a result of the incident, the police arrested six antisocial persons who will be tried by the courts.

Commentary on 'Lesson' Learned

FL2110195788 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Yesterday, a small group of persons hostile to the revolution attempted to carry out acts with counterrevolutionary overtones at the park on Carcel Street in the capital.

It was a meticulously prepared provocation with the goal of striking a sympathetic cord—which as a matter of fact was never denied—in capitalist press agencies. The individuals even tried, following the example of their masters, to involve the name of Jose Marti in their shameless insolence. However, they didn't get their way. The capital's residents who were present, not only prevented it but, right there, held a meeting to express their repudiation of and combativeness toward it. Naturally, those beggars will now have to answer to the courts for disturbing public order.

What lesson can we learn from this episode? First of all, that this is how people must react to a band of provocateurs like this one. Second, our authorities will not permit the slightest violation of the law, under any circumstances. It must not be forgotten that no law in our socialist state protects acts against the revolution. There is no ambiguity in this, and he who attempts to violate these rules of the game, whoever he may be, will have to face the consequences.

CDR's To Study Document on Limiting Indiscipline

FL1910204888 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1519 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] PCC Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura has written a document expressing the determination to limit indiscipline, which is a theme for analysis in the more than 1,000 CDR [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution] zones in the capital. Participating in the study, which has become a source of basic material, are presidents of community-based organizations, zone secretariats, section chiefs, and night watchmen. The document envisages taking measures against illegal demonstrations that disturb normal social activities.

(Rolando Cairo), CDR coordinator for the capital, said that meetings will be held tomorrow in most locales of the province to analyze the document. At the meetings, the participants will author guidelines to increase the efficiency of the CDR.

Machado Ventura's material cites various examples of indiscipline and states that every revolutionary should act firmly in the face of such events and not leave all the work to the police.

Fighting Indiscipline Urged

FL1910195288 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Social indiscipline is basically an attack against socialist norms of cohabitation. Consequently, to a greater or lesser degree, it is also a violation of the law. What else could you call shouting in the theatres, damaging common property, or making a fuss on the road, for example? Without a question, these manifestations against social interests must be fought thoroughly; they must be ended, without delay.

That is precisely what the publication written by Comrade Jose Machado Ventura calls for. It is being analyzed by more than 1,000 CDR [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution] zones in the capital. This is very encouraging because there can be no revolutionary passiveness, given the existence of this type of behavior. It is the duty of every revolutionary to act energetically against it because the police force is not an omnipresent body.

The fight against social indiscipline and in favor of legality, cohabitation, and socialist morality and principles is not only the duty of the state, but also the task of the entire nation. It is the permanent duty of all society. No one has the right to place himself above these fundamental norms of behavior, and he who attempts to do so must run into enormous revolutionary reaction.

Further Reportage on Veiga Visit to Portugal

Joint Communique Issued

FL2110165588 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] The General Confederation of Portuguese Workers, CGTP, and the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, CTC, today issued a joint communique at the end of Roberto Veiga Menendez' visit to Lisbon. Veiga is the highest-ranking Cuban union leader.

During the official talks between both organizations, the CTC discussed the efforts of the national unions to solve existing world social and economic problems.

The central organizations of Portugal and Cuba agreed to strengthen cooperation between the countries and hailed the decrease in international tension and the disarmament agreements.

The CGTP expressed its gratitude and admiration for the role of solidarity played by the Caribbean island in the liberation struggle of the peoples of Africa—Angola in particular—and Latin America.

Meets Communist Party Leader

FL2210015588 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0024 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] According to last-minute reports from Lisbon, Alvaro Cunhal, secretary general of the Portuguese Communist Party, held today a fraternal meeting with Roberto Veiga, secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions. The Cuban trade leader and member of the PCC Politburo is visiting Portugal at the invitation of the General Federation of Portuguese Workers.

During the meeting, which was not included on the official agenda, the two leaders exchanged views on the current international situation and the new steps taken to seek world peace.

Visit Concludes

FL2210135788 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1243 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] Roberto Veiga, secretary general of the CTC, has finished his 3-day visit to Portugal where, among other activities, he met with President Mario Soares and with the secretary general of the Communist Party, Alvaro Cunhal.

Veiga was there by invitation of the General Confederation of Portuguese Workers, with whom a joint communique was signed. The communique states the role of both organizations in relation to existing international situations.

Higher Education Minister in Romania for Meeting

FL1710222888 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2020 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] A Cuban delegation headed by Minister Fernando Vecino Alegret arrived today in Romania to participate in a higher education ministers conference of CEMA member countries. The tasks and experiences of socialist countries in the improvement of higher education will be analyzed, among other matters.

The conference will be held in Bucharest, Romania beginning tomorrow and will continue until next Thursday. The participation of CEMA member countries' higher education centers in scientific-technical cooperation programs will also be discussed. Representatives from Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and the PDRY will attend as observers.

Dominican Republic

Balaguer, Bosch Discuss Economic 'Crisis'

FL2110181788 Santo Domingo Tele-Radio Noticias Television and Radio Network in Spanish 0959 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] President Joaquin Balaguer has met with former President Juan Bosch to analyze the country's current economic crisis.

The meeting was held last night. Very few [word indistinct] officials had access to the meeting, which lasted approximately 35 minutes. The meeting was held at the residence of the president, who intends to meet separately with the country's main political leaders to discuss the economic situation of the Dominican Republic.

It was reported that the meeting between Balaguer and Bosch focused primarily on the economic crisis and its possible solutions.

Countries Unwilling To Accept Haiti's Namphy

FL2110161488 Santo Domingo Tele-Radio Noticias Television and Radio Network in Spanish 0916 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] The Dominican foreign secretary has said that the government has not yet found a country that is willing to receive former General Henri Namphy. Lic Joaquin Ricardo also said that the former mayor of Port-au-Prince, Mr Franck Romain, will also arrive in the country when the Haitian Government grants him a safe-conduct. [sentence as heard]

The chief of the diplomatic corps also said that the government has held informal talks with several countries but none of them wants Namphy, thus requiring the Dominican Government to protect him based on the law of asylum.

Joaquin Ricardo made his remarks at the conclusion of a visit by a Canadian trade delegation which is offering the Dominican Republic products manufactured by several companies from that northern country.

Labor Secretary on Problems of Haitian Workers

FL2110175688 Santo Domingo Tele-Radio Noticias Television and Radio Network in Spanish 0952 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] The secretary of state for labor has said that the [words indistinct] will be resolved only after the needs of the people have been met.

Dr Rafael Agramonte has said that the situation of the Haitian workers in the Dominican Republic cannot be analyzed according to the broad framework of legal formalism. The problems of Haitian workers in the country should be solved based on the economic and social factors of the neighboring country, said the labor secretary.

In his report, he expressed his support for the request made by the Dominican foreign secretary and the United Nations that developed countries (?come to the) aid of Haiti.

Haiti

Avril on Electoral Commission, Constitution

PA2210010888 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0033 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 21 Oct (DPA)—Haitian President Prosper Avril, who reached power 5 weeks ago through a military coup, wants to remain in power without reinstating the liberal Constitution.

During an official speech awaited with great interest tonight, General Avril announced the appointment of an electoral commission but did not set a date for general elections.

Meanwhile, in the streets of Port-au-Prince, over 3,000 people demonstrated against Avril and in favor of the officers who tried to conduct a military coup against Avril last weekend. The officers failed in their attempt and were arrested.

Gen Avril became president on 17 September after a military coup against General Henri Namphy was carried out by Army officers.

Leaders Respond 'Cautiously'

FL2410130588 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Political and civic leaders in Haiti are responding cautiously to General Prosper Avril's pledge to return the country to democratic rule. Mr Avril said in a broadcast address last week that his government will rebuild the foundations of democracy. The leaders expressed regret that Mr Avril did not address the issue of punishment for former members of the Duvalier government's Ton Ton Macoute force.

Demonstrations To Urge End to Coup 'Scenario'

FL2110170888 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Excerpts] In a press release dated 20 October, the Liaison Committee of the Democratic Forces asks General Prosper Avril to put an end to the coup d'etat scenario that has been going on since last weekend and instead capture the murderers responsible for the massacres that have taken place in Port-au-Prince and provincial towns. [passage omitted]

In view of all this and for the following reasons, the Liaison Committee has decided to call for a huge demonstration on Monday, 24 October, at 1000 in front of St Jean Bosco Church. [passage omitted]

The 28 November National Patriotic Movement, MNP-28—which is a branch of the BIP, Patriotic Unitarian Bloc—declares that last weekend's event, in which the 17 September soldiers and officers found themselves linked to Samuel Jeremie, makes it a bit uncomfortable.

MNP-28 thinks the current situation is the consequence of a lack of agreement, a lack of dialogue, between those who want to move too fast and those who are dragging their feet. Finally, MNP-28 believes it important and asks patriots and organizations sensitive to the Haitian people's demands to give the nation's leaders a (?respite) so that they can (?get their act together)—we repeat: (?get their act together)—and satisfy the people's demands properly. In this way, we would be able, together, to set the country on the path toward complete change, for which the Haitian people has already shed far too much blood. [passage omitted]

The Socialist Workers League has called on the working masses and soldiers in Haiti to get together to block all maneuvers against the revolution. [passage omitted] The Socialist Workers League says there is no time to lose. The macoutes must not be given the time to take back the reins of power in Haiti. [passage omitted]

In this same connection, the popular organizations KID [Confederation for Democratic Unity], ANOP [National Alliance of People's Organizations], CATH [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers], and Feneh [National Federation of Haitian Students] have called for a demonstration today to protest all these maneuvers going on within the Army aimed at eliminating the committed elements in the Army. This was decided yesterday, during a news conference at KID headquarters.

11 Soldiers Arrested for 15 Oct Coup Attempt

FL2110174088 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Text] Since Monday, 11 noncoms and enlisted men from the Presidential Guard have been arrested in Port-au-Prince. These men are accused of having participated in the attempt to destabilize the regime of President Avril that was announced last weekend. We have been able to obtain confirmation of this from the person in charge of the National Penitentiary.

The enlisted men and noncoms arrested are: Adjutant (Pierre Louis Faudnesse); Sergeants (Germain Sonthonax) and (Philemon Rene); Corporal (Altidor Jean Alexandre); and some enlisted men, such as (Delil Frico), (Septembre Luckner), (Joseph Klebert), (Canga Robert), (Thimothee Jean Franck), and (Figaro Gethrie).

These men were imprisoned at the National Penitentiary after they were arrested by other members of the Presidential Guard faithful to General Avril and Sergeant Joseph Hebreux.

There is not, among these men, one of the 38 signers of the proclamation in favor of democratizing the Army read by Sgt Hebreux during the 17 September coup d'etat.

It is reported that the 11 men arrested are accused of having been close to Sergeant Patrick Bochard, who is also imprisoned in the National Penitentiary, following his arrest Saturday as a result of this attempt to destabilize Haiti's Presidential Guard, which was supposed to eventually lead to the overthrow of General Avril to the benefit of former Colonel Samuel Jeremie, who was also arrested last Saturday. Jeremie is in jail.

Jeremie, who was close to former President Jean-Claude Duvalier, was found guilty of murder by a military court on 23 May 1986 and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment. However, according to an unofficial source, he managed to get out of prison the day after the 17 September coup d'etat thanks to the intervention of Sgt Bochard and in exchange for a large amount of money.

Former Officer Comments on 15 Oct Coup Attempt

FL2110185888 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Former Dessalines Barracks Battalion Sub-Lieutenant Danny Toussaint, who is currently a refugee in the United States after deserting the Haitian Army in 1986, affirms that the announced [15 October] destabilization attempt is, in fact, a maneuver by the new military regime aimed at eliminating the people most committed to removing the macoutes from the Army. [passage omitted]

We remind listeners that Sub-Lieutenant Danny Toussaint went to the United States in November 1986, accompanied by another sub-lieutenant, Fritz Pierre-Louis. The two men were part of a group of eight officers—among them Major (Pierre Cherubin) of the Dessalines Barracks Battalion—who were transferred to the provinces on 11 November 1986 by the former commander of the Dessalines Barracks Battalion.

Father Aristide Reportedly Still in Country

FL2110181688 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Excerpts] A group of 8 Haitian priests, supported by some 130 members of the clergy in Haiti, yesterday published in Port-au-Prince an open letter addressed to the head rector of the Salesian Order, Father (Egidio V. Gano), who is in Chile. They ask in the letter that he rescind his decision to transfer Father Aristide abroad. [passage omitted]

In connection with the matter of Father Jean Bertrand Aristide, whom many people do not want transferred out of Haiti, yesterday, from approximately 0900 to 1800, members of the TKL [Ti Kominote Legliz, the grassroots church] together with certain committed Christians organized a day of prayer in front of the cathedral of Port-au-Prince. This was within the framework of Father Aristide's transfer. [passage omitted]

According to the director of the Salesian missions worldwide, Father (Edouard Capelletti), the decision to transfer Father Aristide came from the Haitian bishops. In an interview he gave to the Voice of America, a radio station in Washington, the capital of the United States, (Capelletti) said it was the Haitian bishops themselves who decided to transfer Father Aristide abroad and that they had asked the Salesian Order to execute that order. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, 2 days after the expiration of the 17 October deadline set for Father Aristide to leave Haiti, there is still complete silence from the Haitian religious authorities. According to information from priests here in Haiti, Father Aristide is still here in Port-au-Prince. [passage omitted]

There is much talk going on to see if Father Aristide will remain in Haiti or whether he will be transferred abroad, as his superiors are requesting. [passage omitted]

Bishops Asked To Clarify Stand

FL2110183888 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Excerpts] The Fraternity of Committed Laymen [FRALA] in Port-au-Prince has reacted to statements made by the general director of Salesian missions worldwide, Father (Capelletti), over the Voice of America in connection with the order to transfer Father Aristide. According to the statements Father (Capelletti) made over VOA, it was the Haitian bishops who asked the Salesian Order to transfer Father Aristide. [passage omitted]

FRALA asks the bishops to shed light on this matter and asks fellow Haitians, especially laymen working within the Church, to protest all forms of foreign intervention in Haitian national and church matters.

FRALA says: We were astonished to hear Father (Capelletti), who is the director of Salesian missions worldwide, declare to reporter Yves Colon over VOA on Sunday, 16 October, that it was the Episcopal Conference of Haiti itself that asked Father Aristide's superiors to order him to leave Haiti. [passage omitted]

We, the members of FRALA, with all due respect to the bishops, ask them to shed light on their position regarding this statement. [passage omitted]

There is much fuss and confusion in connection with this report. A religious authority whom we contacted has affirmed that Father (Capelletti), with whom he spoke on the telephone, led him to understand that he had never made such a statement, nor granted an interview to VOA—and that the name Yves Colon meant nothing to him. Meanwhile, Yves Colon staunchly maintains that it was he personally who met with Father (Capelletti).

Jamaica

EC, USAID To Provide Development Grants

FL2210142988 Bridgetown CANA in English 2120 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Kingston, Jamaica, Oct 21, CANA—The European Community (EC) has announced a J40 million dollar (U.S.7.2 million) grant to Jamaica to help fund the development of seven water systems in three rural parishes.

Acting EC delegate to Jamaica, J.W.M Rodwell, said that the money will come from Jamaica's allocation under the Third Lome Convention, the trade and aid agreement between the community and the nearly 70 developing countries of the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) group.

Jamaica's project allocation under Lome Three, which expires in 1990, was 40.3 million European Currency Units—approximately U.S.44.3 million dollars. [passage omitted]

Meantime, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has given a U.S.475,000 grant to the Kingston Restoration Company (KRC), which is charged with restoring run-down building sections of the Jamaican capital. [passage omitted]

Government To Disburse Aid to Hurricane Victims

FL2210145288 Bridgetown CANA in English 2110 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Oct 21, CANA—The Jamaica Government will disburse about 61 million dollars (U.S.) to help up to 100,000 low income householders rebuild homes destroyed or damaged by Hurricane Gilbert last month, Prime Minister Edward Seaga announced Thursday night.

A government study estimated damage to homes in excess of 100 million dollars (U.S.), according to figures which Seaga quoted in a radio broadcast last night. The government will be issuing building stamps to the affected households which will be exchanged at hardware stores for material. Distribution of the stamps will begin when building supplies which have been ordered arrive in sufficient quantities.

Householders whose homes have been completely destroyed will receive a grant of 1,000 dollars (U.S.), while those whose properties sustained severe roof and structural damage will receive a grant of just under 730 dollars (U.S.). In cases where only the roof of the building was destroyed, a grant of 545 dollars (U.S.) will be provided.

The smallest grant of 91 (U.S.) dollars will cover furniture dmage only.

Seaga said the grants would not be given to households such as those in government housing schemes where the homes were still insured by government and where residents will receive insurance payments.

Trinidad and Tobago

Workers Hold Demonstration, Issue Ultimatum

FL2210165388 Bridgetown CANA in English 1624 GMT 22 Oct 888

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Oct 22, CANA—Thousands of trade unionists marched through the Trinidad and Tobago capital, Port-of-Spain, Friday to dramatise a number of complaints.

The day of protest, organised oy the militant Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU), was, however, not as impressive as the organisers had expected. It attracted at most 3,000 persons while the organisers had been expecting more than 10,000.

The march began at Queen's Park savannah and made a roundabout trip through town with the demonstrators stopping to circle the financial complex which houses the finance Ministry and Central bank and the headquarters of the country's biggest conglomerate, Neal and Massy.

The march finally ended in an afternoon rally at Woodford Square opposite the Red House where a ceremonial opening of parliament had taken place hours before.

Main speakers were OWTU President General Errol Mcleod, Transport and Industrial Workers Union (TIWU) President Albert Aberdeen, and National Union of Government and Federated Workers Union (NUGFW) head Selwyn John.

The rally was joined by farmers who marched from the flooded area of Aranguez into the capital and National Housing Authority (NHA) employees who earlier had staged their own protest over late salary payments.

The final resolution passed by the rally was in the form of a 35-point ultimatum calling for government to heed the trade union position on a wide range of issues including unemployment, export processing zones, privatisation, and International Monetary Fund (IMF) help for Trinidad and Tobago.

The rally gave government 3 weeks to pay attention to the labour movement demands. If nothing happens, the labour leaders decided, they will stage a major protest action on December 10—Human Rights Day.

Costa Rica

Arias Returns From Visits to U.S., Europe

PA2110214488 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Excerpt] President Oscar Arias has returned from his tour of the United States and Europe.

Arias returned yesterday afternoon from a 2-week tour through the United States, the Dominican Republic, Spain, and England. He flew in from Miami, where he arrived Wednesday aboard an executive jet owned by the U.S. Del Monte Co., which has banana and pineapple operations in Costa Rica.

At first, Arias' arrival time was kept secret and newsmen were not allowed access [to the airport]; however, newsmen were allowed access to the airport 15 minutes before Arias' arrival at 1500. [passage omitted]

On Storm Casualties, Damage

PA2310043088 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0105 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Speech by President Oscar Arias at the Red Cross offices in San Jose—live]

[Text] First of all, as I have been doing for the last few hours, I want to thank all the Costa Rican people for what they have done to help ease the grief of thousands of compatriots caused by Hurricane Joan. I especially want to thank the thousands of officials everywhere in the country for coordinating the work of the government institutions. This makes us proud. There has been sacrifice by many who have only been able to sleep a few hours. This has been an occasion for great solidarity with those Costa Ricans in need. I also want to express solidarity with the thousands of families in various parts of the country who have been affected, with the grief of the mother who has lost a child, with the grief of the father who sees his wife and family suffer, with those in the northern zone, in Limon, in the southern Pacific area, in the central Pacific area, and in the central plateau.

I want to tell those families who have seen a loved one die that I share their sorrow and grief. On behalf of the government, my family, and my aides, I want to express my deepest condolences to those families that have seen their loved ones die. So far, we have received reports that 21 people have died. Many of them are children. In this hour of deep grief for all of you, I especially want to express my deepest condolences and sincere affection to those mothers whose children have died.

The homes of many families have been destroyed by the floods. The estimates are that between 300 and 600 houses have been swept away by the waters. I must tell these people that the efforts we will have to undertake to repair the damage will have to be exemplary for the entire world [words indistinct] have their loved ones die and who have lost their homes will not have to wait. We will make a great effort so that the government institutions, coordinating their actions and work, can alleviate their sorrow as soon as possible.

As we have been repeating, and as the emergency committee members have told all Costa Rica, we expected three logical consequences from the passage of Hurricane Joan through Costa Rica: high waves [words indistinct]. Yesterday, right here from the emergency committee, I was able to tell the country that thanks to God and to our Virgin of the Angels, who has not forsaken us, [words indistinct] and that we could be calm because no danger existed for the city of (?Limon) and in general all the Atlantic coast. The fact that there was a slight change in the course of the hurricane and that it advanced a little to the west and then to the north meant that Costa Ricans would not suffer from the hurricane winds. The 100, 120, and 150 km an hour winds had threatened to destroy small communities and cities, destroy thousands of houses, bridges, roads, and crops, condemning to poverty hundreds if not thousands of Costa Rican farmers. I thank God that we were not affected by such winds.

What has affected us are the torrential rains that have caused us suffering. The heavy rains have caused flooding in several parts of the country. The consequences of that flooding have been truly grave and sorrowful. We now have to make a great effort to extend our hand to those Costa Ricans who have suffered the consequences of these heavy rains in the past few hours.

I must warn Costa Ricans that these rains will not stop in a few hours. It is possible that the rains will continue on Sunday and perhaps on Monday, but to a lesser extent. In the southern region, the rains will end sooner than in other parts of the country. Today we must essentially turn our eyes to the southern and northern regions, to northern Heredia, northern Alajuela, and Guanacaste, because according to the weathermen, torrential rains will continue there.

Finally, Costa Ricans, this is an opportunity to show that Costa Rica has a big heart. We need to make an effort so that all government institutions, through their boards of directors, issue emergency decrees to make funds available to the emergency committee, so that we can lend a helping hand to families in the greatest need, who have lost relatives, their homes, or their belongings. I [words indistinct] the boards of directors of all government institutions to meet as soon as possible. Since you are all authorized to provide funds to the emergency committee, I urge you to do this within the next few hours.

I also want to appeal to the sympathy of Costa Rican businessman, to the farmer who can tell his children joyfully that his land, his farm, his plantation have not been threatened. Please help us. To the industry owner, the businessman, the transportation owners, in general to all men of good will in Costa Rica, the professional

sectors, but above all the businessmen, the foreign corporations that live among us, who have enjoyed democracy, peace, and social stability that Costa Rica has given them for many years, we ask you, please, to show your solidarity at a time when the Costa Rican people need it. I urge you to make as great a donation as possible, because Costa Rica needs that help.

Finally, dear friends, I want to tell you that, even though the hurricane has not affected us the way we thought it would 5 or 6 days ago, when it was thought it would pass much closer to our Atlantic coast, the sorrow that we feel is great, because there are thousands of relatives who today have suffered calamities and personal grief that no Costa Rican, no matter how insensitive he may be, would want to suffer personally. That is why I urge you to show that we are not only a little island of peace, democracy, and freedom, but also that we are a very [words indistinct], very generous people, and that we are capable of giving much love. Thank you very much.

El Salvador

Duarte To Receive Further Chemotherapy

PA2110153888 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Report on interview with Eduardo Colindres, private secretary of President Jose Napoleon Duarte, by Regina Cana—date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] President Jose Napoleon Duate will start his third chemotherapy session tomorrow [Friday, 21 October]. It will last for 5 days, and will not affect his normal daily activities as president.

[Cana] According to information from President Duarte's private secretary Eduardo Colindres, the last tests conducted at the Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington show that Duarte's physical condition is good for further chemotherapy. As opposed to previous treatments, this session will be less intense and have fewer side effects. The treatment will take place at night so as to not disturb President Duarte's routine activities.

[Begin recording] [Colindres] There is no need for the president to leave the country. His treatment has been changed and he will receive it here in El Salvador.

[Cana] How is President Duarte's physical condition? Will he receive complete chemotherapy or will it only be partial?

[Colindres] Treatments vary, of course. There will be fewer side effects. You have seen how much he has recovered. He will probably not have further complications.

[Cana] Following his operation, do you think he has overcome his illness?

[Colindres] I think the Walter Reed tests show that his recovery has been amazing—practically against all odds. He still has cancer, but fortunately it has not spread to other areas and his life expectancy has therefore increased. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Country Braces for Impact of Tropical Storm

PA2410000388 [Editorial Report] San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish at 2220 GMT on 23 October carries a 12-minute report stating that the National Emergency Committee has decreed a state of emergency throughout the country, particularly in San Miguel, La Union, Usulutan, and La Paz Departments, in light of the danger posed by tropical storm "Miriam," which could become a hurricane. The report adds that Raul Murillo, of the Salvadoran Meteorology Center, said that "Miriam" is now about 60 km from the Gulf of Fonseca at the Pacific coast border shared by Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua.

Felipe Pineda, executive secretary of the National Emergency Committee, states: "This storm will cause additional trouble in our country because its winds have reached more than 100 km per hour and are accompanied by heavy rain. We have called on eastern department residents, such as those in San Miguel, Usulutan, and La Paz Departments, and Pacific coast residents—all of whom might be affected by this hurricane—to prepare to be evacuated by emergency committees in each department. We would rather evacuate people than have to regret the consequences of not doing so."

Pineda adds: "We have issued instructions to stop all flights. The Comalapa and Ilopango international airports have been temporarily closed. Nobody is coming in or going out. The same goes for maritime navigation." Concerning measures the population should take, the official states: "We have urged those who live in weakly constructed seaside homes to head for safer areas, because the strong winds anticipated could easily tear down their homes. These people should get in touch with departmental and municipal emergency committees." Pineda concludes by saying that all owners of vehicles are asked to cooperate with the emergency measures by lending their vehicles upon request for the evacuation operations.

Nicaragua

Reportage on Hurricane Preparations, Damage

Ortega Inspects Bluefields

PA2110224488 Bluefields Radio Zinica in Spanish 1721 GMT 21 Oct 88

[News conference held by President Daniel Ortega with unidentified reporters in Bluefields on 21 October—live or recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Ortega] ...brothers of Bluefields, I tell you that we must exert our best efforts and exhibit the highest degree of discipline to save lives. Material assets, houses and

other things, can be replaced, but lives cannot. We would rather lose houses than human lives. We must work immediately, therefore, to move people from the danger areas to the shelters that have already been set up. In this way, we can protect the lives of children, women, men, and senior citizens. After that, with the help and the efforts of the government and international solidarity, we will rebuild what is damaged here. Therefore, it is important that we bear in mind that the main task right now is to save the people of Bluefields from this hurricane, which is certainly threatening them and the rest of the country.

[Reporter] Do you think that, as the latest reports indicate, the damage it might cause will be considerable?

[Ortega] The hurricane's present course indicates that it is practically inevitable that it will hit us hard.

[Reporter] What do you think of the preparations for the hurricane?

[Ortega] Work has been done quickly. We have worked on the basis of past experience, bearing in mind that the comrades of the Army, Interior Ministry, FSLN, and government know how to organize and how to incorporate the people into these tasks. This is why we have been able to accomplish much in a short period of time. The Nicaraguan Government and the FSLN National Directorate decided to send Commander William Ramirez to spearhead this task.

We are here with some comrades of a Cuban mission. They are Cuban brothers who arrived at our request last night. They have been working all night. They have accompanied us here to share their experience with us, because we know that Cuba is a country that is usually affected by this type of disaster, hurricanes and storms. They have much experience, and the Cuban people are helping us face this problem.

[Reporter] Is there any international support for Nicaragua?

[Ortega] This is all there is for now. The rest are missions that will look after the needs of the people being relocated, not only in this area of Bluefields but also in San Carlos and the people we will relocate in Nicaragua's Pacific region. We will relocate people of Managua, the Fourth Region, and of all regions, because the hurricane will bring heavy rains.

[Reporter] How many people are we talking about?

[Ortega] We are talking about 70,000 to 80,000 in Managua alone. The mobilization is very large. A hurricane will cause heavy flooding because the soil throughout the country is already saturated from the normal rains, which have been intense.

[Reporter] Conditions in Nicaragua are already very difficult. Does this mean that a great deal of assistance will be needed in light of the grave situation that is predicted?

[Ortega] Of course, we first have to resort to our own strength, our own organizational ability, and the cooperation provided by the Cuban comrades and other comrades from other nations in this area, and then on international support.

Hurricane Hits

PA2210140888 [Editorial Report] Managua Domestic Service in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 22 October carries approximately 20 minutes of reports on the damage caused by Hurricane Joan. The station announcer reports that Hurricane Joan hit the Nicaraguan Atlantic coast early this morning.

On Corn Island, located near Bluefields, the winds "destroyed two houses, blew away roofs, and practically destroyed the island's entire power system. The torrential rains and high tide caused flooding at the island's two ports."

Early this morning, the reports continue, the Presidency's Press and Information Directorate issued a communique advising "the Nicaraguan people and the international community, that as of 0030, Bluefields, located 300 km northeast of Managua, was being buffeted by 202 km per hour winds." The strong winds downed trees and antennae. While Hurricane Joan was beating down on Bluefields, "President Daniel Ortega was on the phone with Commander William Ramirez, who explained what was happening." President Ortega and Commander Ramirez agreed to keep in touch; however, this was impossible because the strong winds downed the radio antenna.

At 1230 GMT, Managua Domestic Service continues to report on the effects of Hurricane Joan. The station announcer reminds the listeners that there is no direct radio link with Bluefields; however, "the government is doing all it can—TELCOR [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services] is currently working on setting up a special microwave system—and hopefully we will soon be able to give you firsthand reports." The announcer says that "at this time, it is impossible to say whether anyone has died as a result of Hurricane Joan."

At 1235 GMT, the station announcer says that Dionisio Marenco, chief of the FSLN's Propaganda Department, and Carlos Jose Guadamuz, director of La Voz de Nicaragua, will conduct the radio network. An unidentified announcer explains that "the hurricane hit Bluefields at a speed of 12 or 15 km per hour. This means that it will continue to be over Bluefields for the next 4 hours."

Marenco and Guadamuz continue to advise their listeners that throughout the day, government and civil defense officials will be issuing instructions to the people and reporting on Hurricane Joan's path.

Corn Island Damage

PA2210170288 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1531 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Conversation between President Daniel Ortega and Legislative Assembly Deputy Ray Hooker, who has been in charge of security operations on Corn Island, "this morning"—recorded]

[Text] [Ortega] Hello, Ray, warm greetings. What do you have to report? How is the situation?

[Hooker] Comrade President, the situation on the island is very serious. All the houses have been destroyed. There is not a single house with a roof left on the island. The Promar Factory, the only factory that processes [words indistinct], was also destroyed. All the schools were destroyed. The island's medical clinic was also destroyed. All the churches were destroyed. All the houses lost their roofs. All the stores were destroyed. Most of the trees, I would say 95 percent of the trees, were knocked down by the hurricane.

The hurricane hit us for 14 hours, from 1500 yesterday until 0500 this morning. We are still enduring heavy rains. The situation on the island is serious. There is no medicine and no medical personnel. We have only one doctor here. She is doing all she can, but she needs help, medicine, and medical supplies.

The people have lost all their clothes and belongings. The local fishing boats have been destroyed. There is total destruction. I lived through the 1972 earthquake in Managua and what has happened here is much worse.

We also have to search for the injured. We are trying to prepare a report but the rains have not let us. This is more or less the situation, Comrade President.

[Ortega] How many people do you estimate are injured? Has anyone died? What is the situation in this regard right now?

[Hooker] We know of three dead. However, we have not been able to search under the houses that were knocked down and we have been unable also to [10-second break in reception]. Hello, hello, Comrade President: We definitely have three dead. We are trying to determine the number of casualties. [words indistinct]

[Ortega] What is the condition of the airport?

[Hooker] We have cleared the airport. Planes can land at the airport. This is the first thing we did. However, the winds are still too strong for planes to come, but not as strong as they were at 0500.

[Ortega] How strong do you think the winds could be right now?

[Hooker] I estimate the winds are between 75 and 90 km per hour.

[Ortega] Can you hear me? We are making [words indistinct]. We have no communication with Bluefields. I spoke at 0145 with Commander Ramirez. Because of the winds, we decided to end our communication. The hurricane has damaged Bluefields [words indistinct] and it is moving west, toward the Pacific. This is the current situation. In the rest of the country, preparations are under way because it is possible that we will have some floods and some heavy winds. We have evacuated several thousand people from the country's ports. We have [words indistinct] and Rama floods. There is a strong flood threat in the San Carlos area. From (Lanulea) we have reports about the destruction of houses. We, including our Cuban brothers, are implementing an operation to begin assisting Corn Island, and later Bluefields, because Managua and these areas are beginning to be affected.

All the coastal areas are already secure. Rain and bad weather could last until tomorrow at noon or tomorrow afternoon. We have been preparing to help Rama, Bluefields, San Carlos, and Corn Island. We want to say [words indistinct] that the shipment from Cuba will be made available as soon as the heavy rains and winds begin to drop and planes can fly to Corn Island. It is very important that you keep us informed about the velocity of the winds so we can send the emergency aid that is needed.

[Hooker] Great, Commander, great. We will keep you informed of the situation, of the wind velocity so you may know when the planes from the sister republic of Cuba may fly here with aid for the people. We need many tents because we have no housing, no refuge for the people [words indistinct]. This has been devastation, what we have had here.

[Ortega] How many people do you believe will need food and clothing?

[Hooker] [passage indistinct]

[Ortega] Please repeat that.

[Hooker] [passage indistinct]

[Ortega] We are back in communication. Comrade, we want to know how many people will need tents, food, medicine, and other items.

[Hooker] [passage indistinct]

[Ortega] Please repeat that. Say it again.

[Hooker] There are 7,500 victims. This is a population that needs clothes, food, medicine, and tents. We also need gasoline. We have diesel, but we do not have gasoline.

[Ortega] Right. There are 7,500 victims. I want to know if efforts are being made to identify the dead and injured.

[Hooker] We are beginning to do that. The rains are still intense and the winds are still strong. However, we have brigades carrying out various activities. One brigade is clearing the roads. There is a health brigade and there is a brigade identifying the injured and the dead.

[Ortega] It is also important to provide as much information as possible on the injured and the dead. We are taking every measure to provide immediate assistance. Cuban comrades are also participating in this effort. They will have a good chance to be on Corn Island in the next few hours. As the hurricane moves to the Pacific area, we will be able to participate in support operations to Bluefields and Corn Island.

Warm greetings to all our brothers there. We know your morale is high. We know you have been able to take command of the situation at Corn Island.

[Hooker] Commander, the people of Corn Island know what you have said will be done. We are very grateful to the Cuban brothers who will come to help us.

[Ortega] Fine, brother. We will keep in touch so we may exchange information.

Ortega on 'Irresponsible' Acts

PA2210180888 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1549 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Statement by President Daniel Ortega at the Press Directorate of the Presidency in Managua—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In the midst of this tragedy that Nicaragua is experiencing, we were informed at 0150 this morning that at 0110, in the Los Santos area of Nueva Guinea, in a district known as Mocoron, the U.S. Government's mercenaries ambushed an ambulance belonging to the French volunteers. The driver was injured. A child who was seriously injured was being evacuated. In other words, in a situation like this one, Reagan's champions of freedom attacked an ambulance that was evacuating a sick child.

And the U.S. Congress, the Yankee congress, at a time when reports were being issued about the catastrophe that was threatening Nicaragua, as the hurricane was heading toward Nicaragua, that U.S. Congress, in a cynical manner, in a cruel, immoral manner, called for an escalation of the war against Nicaragua in agreements approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives. Moreover, Bush, Reagan's candidate, Reagan's son, Reagan's godchild, also called for the continuation of financing for the mercenaries. In other words, in making their speeches, they do not even respect a critical, dramatic time like the one that the Nicaraguan people are experiencing. Instead, they attack us in such a manner.

The same irresponsible, criminal thing was done by the newspaper LA PRENSA, which manipulated a situation in which the proper thing to do was to get to work and concentrate efforts and resources to preserve the Nicaraguan people's lives as much as possible.

We are not talking here about preserving material goods, but of preserving the Nicaraguan people's lives. In other words, amidst this tragedy and pain, the newspaper LA PRENSA, as the instrument of Yankee policy, reflecting the threats that the U.S. Congress and Bush are making, has been manipulating information and trying to distort the meaning of the state of emergency applied throughout the country. It has tried to distort the facts by even turning to a man [reference to Pedro Joaquin Chamorro] who is supposedly its director, but who is not here alongside the Nicaraguan people. I believe he is doing his writing from somewhere in the United States, writing against the effort that we are making to preserve Nicaraguan lives.

When we declared the state of emergency, we did not order censorship of LA PRENSA; however, we had every right to do that. We thought LA PRENSA would show at least a minimum degree of sensitivity and responsibility. But that was not the case. LA PRENSA is abusing the Nicaraguan Government in these dramatic moments. LA PRENSA's attitude is criminal. LA PRENSA must either behave itself and follow the orders being issued by the government to confront this tragedy, this national tragedy, or we will have to be hard and implement the state of emergency [on LA PRENSA].

The U.S. Government's spokesman, the State Department, today said that the state of emergency declared by the Nicaraguan Government was going to be used to commit abuses. What cynicism. The Yankee government should practice what it preaches. They should end all the abuses they have been committing against the Nicaraguan Government, against the Nicaraguan people, for the past 8 years. The Yankee government endangers the lives of the Nicaraguan people; the Yankee government supports criminal forces like the one that ambushed the ambulance this morning. That ambulance was carrying a seriously ill child. The Yankee government must be the one to stop its policy of abuse and disregard for international law; it must respect international law and stop the immoral war it is promoting against the Nicaraguan people.

In these dramatic times, and as we always do, we are calling on the inexhaustible moral reserves of the Nicaraguan people. Those are the same moral reserves that

allowed us to resist and confront the imperialist domination that ended with the overthrow of the last government put here by the Yankee government: the Somoza government. Those are the same moral reserves that have given the Nicaraguan people the strength to overcome all those hurricanes and earthquakes that for the past 8 years the Reagan government has sent to our country to murder our people and ruin our economy. With those moral reserves, which translate into organization, discipline, and firmness, we are going to resist and overcome this disaster.

We hereby call on the Yankee government to stop its policy of threats and aggression against Nicaragua. We call on the mercenaries to stop their criminal attacks and respect the cease-fire ordered by the Nicaraguan Government. We also call on LA PRENSA and the opposition groups to show some responsibility; we will not allow anyone to use a tragic moment, like the one we are currently experiencing, to play with the Nicaraguan people's lives, safety, and feelings. We call on the Nicaraguan bishops, especially Cardinal Obando y Bravo, who has been in Europe for the past week, to join this campaign to help the Nicaraguan people; we call on them to condemn the Yankee policy that is only trying to use this tragedy to increase and escalate the aggression, and join in the work being done by the Nicaraguan people. The members of the National Directorate stand by their people and are willing to confront any situation.

I would like to call on all Nicaraguan brothers, workers, peasants, women, children, Sandino, Dario, and Carlos Fonseca's heroic people, to double your efforts in these difficult times. You know how to do it. You grow when faced with problems; you get stronger when confronted with difficulty. We are going to face this natural phenomenon with this same spirit and we will continue to strengthen and consolidate our revolutionary process.

We will continue to keep in contact with our Nicaraguan brothers through this radio network and will continue to advise you regarding the various measures being implemented.

Free Fatherland or Death!

Firms Ordered To Provide Aid

PA2210184988 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1807 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] Managua, 22 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Government decreed today that industrial companies must put their raw materials and finished products at the disposal of the Sandinist authorities in order to help the victims of Hurricane Joan.

The Nicaraguan Economy, Industry, and Commerce Ministry issued a decree stating that industrial enterprises must turn their stocks over to the government on request.

Economy Vice Minister Gilberto Guzman has been appointed by the Sandinist government to develop the mechanisms by which the decree can be implemented.

The decree was issued as part of the national state of emergency declared by the government 2 days ago, which authorizes the president to suspend certain constitutional rights and guarantees in order to cope with the damage caused by the hurricane.

The decree establishes that for the duration of the 30-day state of emergency, the government may temporarily utilize whatever resources it requires to counter the effects of Hurricane Joan.

The hurricane hit the Nicaraguan Atlantic coast early this morning, directly lashing Corn Island, Bluefields, Rama, and Nueva Guinea.

Managua Evacuation Ordered

PA2210192088 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1805 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Communique issued by the Region 3 Defense Council in Managua on 22 October]

[Text] Brothers:

The hurricane has hit our country and is now moving toward the Pacific coast after causing serious damage in Corn Island and Bluefields. This means Managua and all Region 3 municipalities will be facing a difficult test as a result of Hurricane Joan. In light of the seriousness of the situation, we call on all the people of Managua and other municipalities to follow, with discipline, the following guidelines:

1. All Region 3 districts and municipalities are ordered to follow the established evacuation plan. This means all residents of neighborhoods, areas, and hamlets located in areas that would be affected by flooding will seek shelter in the established centers. This must be done as quickly as possible. All homes along the banks of rivers and the [Managua] Lake will be the first to be evacuated.

We will be evacuating 62 neighborhoods in Region 3, especially Managua. This will affect 71,509 people.

2. All shelters must be made operational immediately. The people must bring along some basic items: sheets, one change of clothes, flashlights, those items necessary for the care of children, medicine, and any food you may have. Calm and order must prevail at the shelters.

3. All homes must be ready to resist and overcome the beating of the hurricane. Secure doors, windows, roofs, and loose articles inside the house. Seek refuge behind the most solid side of the house.

4. Families with solid concrete homes must share their homes with those people whose homes are not solidly built. Solidarity must guide us in these difficult times.

5. Homes and neighborhoods that must be evacuated will be under the protection of domestic brigades under the orders of the Sandinist Police. It must be made very clear that the order not to allow any type of crime has been implemented.

6. The Civil Defense Brigades and the Neighborhood Defense Councils must proceed immediately to their posts. They will remain there at the service of the people as long as the threat of the hurricane remains. The brigades must ensure that they have all they need.

7. Immediately after the storm passes over your area, you will determine the extent of damage and help rescue people; you will attend to the injured and report to the Neighborhood Defense Councils and to the district and municipal defense councils.

8. Civil Defense authorities are hereby authorized to requisition all vehicles, private and state, needed to confront the emergency. Likewise, they may requisition any material considered necessary to confront the emergency.

9. The Regional Defense Council hereby advises Region 3 residents that this situation is dangerous. However, do not despair, much less panic. Be calm. Have trust in the fact that we can defeat the effects of the hurricane.

Everyone against the hurricane, everyone participate with the Civil Defense.

Managua, 22 October 1988

Bluefields Report

PA2210202388 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1856 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Report on conversation between President Daniel Ortega and Commander William Ramirez, special civil defense envoy in Bluefields, by reporter identified as "Mario" at the Press Directorate of the Presidency in Managua—live]

[Text] [Mario] We want to report from the Press Directorate of the Presidency that a short while ago, President Daniel Ortega talked again with Commander William Ramirez, who is in Bluefields.

Commander William Ramirez reported that 10 people have died as a result of Hurricane Joan. One of the casualties was found at the airport. Some people are slightly injured. Bluefields needs tents and medicine. President Ortega asked Commander Ramirez about the condition of the Bluefields airport and Commander Ramirez said the airport has been checked, but a technical check will be made.

Commander Ramirez told the president that what medicine Bluefields had became wet. The president told Commander Ramirez that the airport must be repaired and in good condition because airplanes from the sister republic of Cuba will be arriving there with aid for the victims of Bluefields and Corn Island. The airplanes will land at the Bluefields airport and the aid for Corn Island will be transported from there.

This will probably begin happening tomorrow, when, according to President Ortega, the weather should be better than it is today.

Commander Ramirez said wind speeds have been reduced to 10 to 15 km per hour. He said tents and medicine are urgently needed.

Commander William Ramirez told President Ortega that the roofs over most of the refugee centers were destroyed by the hurricane. However no one was injured, no one was killed. [sentence as heard] In one of these refugee centers, the roof collapsed and three people died. In the other refugee centers, the roofs were simply blown away by the strong wind.

President Daniel Ortega asked William Ramirez to have the people who died buried to prevent an epidemic.

President Ortega and Commander Ramirez will talk again this afternoon to discuss the situation in Bluefields and the condition of the Bluefields airport. This has been a last minute report. Now lets go back to the studio.

[Announcer] Mario, do you know if Commander Ramirez spoke about the situation in the city, how much destruction there is?

[Mario] Commander Ramirez did not mention that. Communications were very poor. I am sure this situation will be discussed when President Ortega and Commander Ramirez talk again late this afternoon. The president only asked him about the situation at the refugee centers. This is what we have reported.

Situation Around Country

PA2310030688 [Editorial Report] Managua Domestic Service in Spanish from 0005 to 0220 GMT on 23 October carries a series of short correspondent reports from various cities in Nicaragua that are in the path of the tropical storm (formerly Hurrican Joan), which the station announcer advises will hit Managua between 0300 and 0500 GMT on 23 October.

At 0005 GMT, a reporter in Boaco advises that it is raining heavily there and that zinc roofs have been blown off many homes by the storm. The reporter adds that two people are known to have been injured by flying objects.

At 0009 GMT, a reporter in Granada advises that rain and winds there are intensifying and that electricity in the city was cut off 30 minutes earlier by the local power company. The reporter adds that the area is experiencing communications problems because of the power cutoff and says that evacuation of area residents is continuing.

At 0023 GMT, a reporter in Tipitapa advises that about 800 people living near Lake Managua are being evacuated since the lake's water level has risen slightly.

At 0030 GMT, a reporter in Matagalpa advises that about 3,900 people have been evacuated from that city and that wind velocity and rain in that area were intensifying.

At 0041 GMT, the vice commander of the FSLN Executive Commission, Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce, telephones the radio station to report on his tour of Managua districts to oversee the evacuation of the area. Arce says: "I believe it is important to make clear that there is no longer any public transportation in Managua." "It is imperative that everyone head home or seek shelter elsewhere, as is the case of those who are being evacuated, to minimize casualties from the expected heavy rains."

At 0110 GMT, a studio announcer reports that the Altagracia neighborhood in Managua's District Three "is having problems with its emergency shelter because it is now completely full." The announcer implores listeners to show solidarity with fellow citizens by offering their homes to families who are being evacuated. The announcer adds that in District Five "60 percent of the 14,000 people who were supposed to be evacuated have already been evacuated." The announcer regrets that many refuse to leave the area because they do not believe the storm is as severe as reported.

At 0120 GMT, a reporter from Masaya advises that rains have intensified since 1500 (2100 GMT). He notes that some tree have been blown down and that water levels in the area have risen. The reporter adds that people in Cofradia are refusing to leave their homes and that only 20 percent of the people there have been evacuated.

At 0131 GMT, a studio announcer warns listeners that even if there are no heavy winds, heavy rains are expected and that Managua is ill-equipped to handle floods.

At 0140 GMT, a studio announcer advises listeners that the power company will cut off the electricity supply to Managua at any time to avoid accidents caused by downed power lines. He also advises Managua residents to pull down the handles on their fuse boxes and to turn off gas lines in preparation for the brunt of the storm.

At 0220 GMT, an announcer warns listeners to seek shelter since even if the winds soon dissipate, there is a danger of mudslides and floods from the 15 inches of rain expected in the area over the next few hours. He says that the station will continue to advise listeners on the progress of the storm.

Ortega on Priorities

PA2310032688 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0243 GMT 23 Oct 88

["Message to the Nicaraguan people" from President Daniel Ortega in Managua—live]

[Text] Good evening, Nicaraguan brothers. Throughout today there have been frequent reports over this radio network for the Nicaraguan people about Hurricane Joan's effects on the people and the damage to their property. At this time, the hurricane is about 50 km from Managua. We can no longer continue calling it a hurricane because it has lost the 227 km per hour winds with which it hit Corn Island, Bluefields, and other areas on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast. It has been losing strength, but the force with which it will hit Managua and adjacent areas is one we Nicaraguans have never experienced. We are talking about 60 to 80 km per hour winds. This will surely cause much damage, and it might affect the lives of the population if we Nicaraguans do not act responsibly.

Right now we have the responsibility of saving the lives of the children, our families, and of everyone in the face of the damage this storm might cause. This tropical storm is already drenching the Third Region, the city of Managua and its outskirts. At this time, there are winds of 27 km per hour, but there are already gusts of up to 60 km per hour. This is toppling trees and utility poles and power lines. As a result, electric power is being lost in some areas.

At this time, therefore, I am calling on the people who have been assigned shelters to go to them; and to the people who are in somewhat safe areas, follow the safety instructions that are being given. We have up to 2200 [0400 GMT], because the storm will then begin to hit the entire region and the city of Managua with greater strength. Therefore, no one should be out in the streets at 2200. I repeat, no one should be out in the streets at 2200, because he would be running the risk of being killed or suffering serious injury. He would also be risking his family, his children. Everyone should stay in the place assigned to him. Those who are not in the places assigned to them or who are not in their homes should go to the shelters.

This must be done immediately. Those individuals who are not yet in shelters must go to the shelters immediately. Otherwise, we will later mourn the loss of lives—lives of children and adults. We cannot allow this to happen. We must vigorously avoid this.

People and families who were assigned to specific shelters and are not yet there must go to the shelters immediately. They must go there immediately.

You are noticing that the winds that are currently blowing in the city are very unusual. We do not ordinarily have these kinds of winds in our country. These winds will persist and their speed will intensify to between 60 and 80 km [per hour].

It is important that people comply with the measures we have adopted, that they immediately head for refuge. The idea is not to do these things when the water has reached waist level or is life threatening. The idea is to do this immediately.

We must maintain these security measures for the next few hours because experts, who are following up on this through appropriate technical equipment abroad in centers in Cuba and the United States, report that this storm will last throughout the evening until dawn and that rain will continue for many hours thereafter. We are already facing the most violent phase of the storm, however, and we will continue to face it in the next few hours, when it will intensify.

We urge everyone to be responsible. In doing so, we will be complying with our main objective at this dramatic moment, which is to preserve the lives of Nicaraguans. I repeat, material goods can be replaced in the medium- and long-term, but there is only one life. It is the responsibility of all to look after the lives of all Nicaraguans.

I also wish to send this message to residents of Region Three and Managua, and in particular to Nicaraguan brothers in other regions that are also being affected by this storm. We ask them to maintain order, discipline, and calm; we ask them to comply with the security measures that have been repeated by comrades who are heading these defense tasks. In so doing, we will be saving the lives of Nicaraguans.

We, Nicaraguan brothers, are counting on your responsibility. We are sure that despite very difficult situations that could arise throughout the night, that with organization and calm and by acting in an organized fashion, we will overcome threats posed by this natural disaster to the lives and property of Nicaraguans. Thank you very much, Nicaraguan brothers. We will continue to keep in touch through this radio network to face this natural disaster in the most appropriate way.

Ortega Seeks Disaster Aid

PA2310041688 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0315 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Interview with President Daniel Ortega in Managua by "Mexican television" "tonight"—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Commander Ortega, it is said that this is the worst natural disaster Nicaragua has ever suffered. What impact do you expect it will have on Nicaraguan lives and the economy and what solutions can be offered at this time?

[Ortega] Well, the truth is that at this time I cannot even make an estimate because the consequences of the hurricane are really incalculable. Our country had never been hit by a hurricane of such strength. It not only causes loss of Nicaraguan lives but also damages the country's economic structure, which will be seriously affected. This is added to the damage already caused by imperialism throughout our history, to the damage caused by the imperialist policy over the past 8 years during which time the Reagan administration has been waging war against us, and to the damage caused by other natural disasters such as the 1972 earthquake. This disaster will have more devastating effects than all of the previous disasters. Nevertheless, we are sure and confident that the Nicaraguan people will be able to face, as they have already been doing, these problems and challenges. With the cooperation of the international community, which we expect, we will utilize those resources and will continue struggling for this free Nicaragua.

[Reporter] In what specific areas do you need international solidarity and aid?

[Ortega] The immediate need is the most essential things such as medicine, clothing, blankets, tents, and canned goods. In other words, we need the most basic things that can be sent immediately because zones are being left devastated and the people are without food, clothing, and housing. That is the type of aid we immediately need.

[Reporter] Although this is not the time to politicize things, it is true that there are political issues in Nicaragua. What do you think of the humanitarian aid for the contras which is being debated in the United States? Would you be willing to accept U.S. aid at this time?

[Ortega] The best humanitarian aid that the U.S. Government could give Nicaragua would be to stop its terrorist policy against Nicaragua. You must bear in mind that at this time of tragedy, the U.S. Government, through Congress, has been again encouraging the war and a military escalation and not respecting the Nicaraguan people's feelings in this difficult situation. Congress has again been expressing support for that interventionist policy. Candidate Bush has also been acting in the same manner. Therefore, we tell the U.S. Government that if it wants to respect the Nicaraguan people, if it wants to do something to contribute to the Nicaraguan people, and if it wants to respect itself, it should immediately stop this terrorist and aggressive policy against our country.

[Reporter] What appeal would Nicaragua make to Latin America in view of this dramatic situation?

[Ortega] Well, we hope that Latin America will respond, bearing in mind that Nicaragua has suffered past damage and that with this hurricane, the damage will increase. International cooperation not only from Latin America

but also from Europe and other countries of the world will surely help alleviate our people's sufferings and will provide us with resources to continue working for our country's development.

Presidency on Measures Taken

PA2310054488 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0430 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Communique No 69 issued by the Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency in Managua on 22 October]

[Text] The Information and Press Directorate of the Nicaraguan Presidency reports to the Nicaraguan people and the international community the actions and measures that the Nicaraguan Government has adopted today with the support of various sectors to face the onslaught of Hurricane Joan.

1. The Supreme Council for the Defense of the Fatherland [Consejo Supremo de Defensa de la Patria] directs all the tasks. It is led by Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, president of the Republic, and is composed of FSLN National Directorate members and Commanders of the Revolution Humberto Ortega, defense minister; Tomas Borge, interior minister; Jaime Wheelock, agricultural development and agrarian reform minister; and Bayardo Arce Castano, vice coordinator of the FSLN Political Commission.

2. The main task of the regional defense committees has been the evacuation of approximately 200,000 people to safer places throughout the country. Twenty-five vessels, 340 trucks, and dozens of helicopter flights were used in the evacuation of the residents of Bluefields, Corn Island, and San Carlos.

3. To date, 300,000 homeless are reported throughout the national territory.

4. In the face of the devastating effects of Hurricane Joan on the Nicaraguan Atlantic coast and the difficulty being experienced with communications with that region, complete figures on deaths, injured, homeless, and damage to the infrastructure and to the economy are not yet available.

5. On Corn Island, the situation is grave because of the almost total destruction of the houses and productive centers. In Bluefields, most of the houses have been destroyed and the hospital was partially damaged. In El Bluff, all of the state enterprises were reportedly completely destroyed and the houses were damaged. In Special Zone No Three, there are reports of damage to the port infrastructure, houses, boats, piers, vehicles, roofs, and silos, and partial damage to an ENAP [National Ports Enterprise] warehouse—with the possibility that it might be completely destroyed—and to a Rural Children's Center, SIR. In the economic field, there is loss of pasture land, cattle herds, and rice in warehouses and in the field. The most damaged sectors in the Fifth Region are Villa Sandino, Rio Sucio, El Coral, El Rama, La Gateada, La Libertad, Nueva Guinea, Acoyapa, San Carlos, San Miguelito, and Santo Tomas. There is flooding of the Rama River, but the extent of the damage is still unknown.

6. In all the organizational tasks and in the evacuation of the residents of the Atlantic region, the praiseworthy work of Comrades Guerrilla Commander William Ramirez and Ray Hooker has been outstanding. They were commissioned by the Nicaraguan Government to coordinate the efforts and actions in the autonomous region of the southern Atlantic.

7. The civil defense programs, which include the sending of food, medicine, and fuel reserves to all regions, have been put into operation throughout the country. Measures have been taken to protect aircraft, vessels, vehicles, power and water plants, and the rest of the resources, which are the patrimony of the nation. Instructions have been issued and specific measures adopted to prevent epidemics and other health problems.

8. The organized forces of the FSLN, the revolutionary government, the EPS, and the Interior Ministry are heading all these tasks in the regions, municipalities, and towns of the country.

Managua, 22 October 1988

For an honorable peace, free fatherland or death.

[Signed] Press and Information Directorate of the Presidency

B. Rivera on 'Negligence'

PA2310061388 Paris AFP in Spanish 0355 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] San Jose, 22 Oct (AFP)—Miskito leader Brooklyn Rivera has charged that the Nicaraguan Government was negligent in its handling of the threat posed by Hurricane Joan, which destroyed the Port of Bluefields Saturday. Rivera said that he fears "catastrophic" losses that are much more serious than those admitted by the authorities in Managua so far.

Amid the uncertainty surrounding the consequences of the tragedy in Bluefields, Rivera said that he knows of a report stating that there are between 200 and 250 dead and numerous injured, without taking into account the casualties sustained in neighboring towns that have been left without communications.

In statements to AFP, Rivera said that Nicaraguan authorities virtually failed to inform the people of Bluefields about the approach of the hurricane. He also said that evacuation of the area began on Friday, only hours before the storm arrived.

"Terrible damage has been inflicted because the people were not prepared. They were unaware of the scope of the danger. The people of Bluefields actually learned about the hurricane only through transmissions of the Voice of America and Costa Rican stations," he pointed out.

The Miskito leader said that he had no specific reports on the number of dead and injured caused by the hurricane in Bluefields, but he expressed certainty that they are much higher than those reported until now in Managua. He said that "the world will be surprised when it learns of the magnitute of the catastrophe over the next few days."

Rivera pointed out that more serious damage than that suffered in Bluefields was reportedly registered in other Indian towns along the Perlas Lagoon, approximately 20 km to the north, where some 7,000 Indians encountered the hurricane without warning.

The leader said that there is much anguish over the fate of some 800 "Sumu" Indians, who inhabit the small Rama Cay Island in the center of the Bay of Bluefields.

In accusing the Nicaraguan Government of negligence in the face of the hurricane approaching the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua, Rivera said that most of the 25,000 inhabitants of Bluefields "were not evacuated but simply gathered in the city's downtown area in not very safe buildings such as churches and schools."

Rivera admitted that prior to the tragedy the authorities evacuated approximately 5,000 people, but the first to leave the area were people close to the government and some internationalists.

The Bluefields region is mainly inhabited by Miskito, Sumu, Rama, and Creole Indians, who in the past 7 years have actively supported the guerrillas of the MISURASATA [Miskito, Sumu, Rama Sandinist Unity] and MISURA [Miskitos, Sumus, and Ramas] groups, who have rebelled against the legal Nicaragua Government since 1981.

According to reports in the hands of Rivera, the brunt of Hurricane Joan hit El Bluff (3,000 inhabitants), where important military installations of the Sandinist Army were reportedly destroyed.

Rivera also expressed concern over destruction caused in Bluefields itself. He described it as a town of "deteriorating wooden homes that are very vulnerable to the winds."

The Indian leader insisted that the situation could be even worse in many communities to the north and south of Bluefields where rivers overflowed and thousands of people were left isolated.

As of Saturday evening, 15 hours after the tragedy, authorities in Managua reported only 20 dead in Bluefields and 3 on Corn Island and 140 missing in the Rama area.

Ortega on Damage, Cuban Aid

PA2310175588 [Editorial Report] Managua Domestic Service in Spanish at 1435 GMT on 23 October carries 25 minutes of live statements by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega interspersed with news reports by various reporters on the current situation in Managua after Hurricane Joan hit the Managua area on the night of 22 October. Ortega assesses the situation left by Hurricane Joan on the Nicaraguan Atlantic coast and in Managua while touring several neighborhoods in Managua. Defense Minister Humberto Ortega is reported to be present.

Ortega begins by saying there are several shelters along the major roads to give protection to those who have been left homeless in the Managua area.

Answering reporter's questions about international assistance Nicaragua is receiving, Ortega says: "We hope the international community will send aid in proportion to the tragedy Nicaragua is experiencing."

Ortega says that at this moment, the government cannot quantify the economic damage done by Hurricane Joan. On Cuban aid Ortega says: "Today Cuba is entering Bluefields with help. In addition, Sandinist Air Force planes, which are now in Cuba, are coming back with aid sent by the Cuban Government. Seven flights are expected to enter Bluefields this morning. Weather permitting, planes will also arrive in Managua from Cuba with first aid today." Ortega details the current needs of the Nicaraguan people. He says the people need food and clothes. Ortega says the government still does not have exact numbers of the homeless, but he believes there are over 300,000 people affected by the hurricane.

Asked which were the most seriously affected areas, Ortega replies that Corn Island, Bluefields, and all areas west of Bluefields in the direction of Managua were violently hit by the hurricane.

Asked about international aid, Ortega says: "I talked with Comrade Fidel Castro last night. He called us last night because he is very concerned about the situation in Nicaragua. He is concerned about the effects of the hurricane in densely populated areas on the Nicaraguan Pacific coast including Managua and Masaya. He expressed his solidarity with the Nicaraguan people and said he is willing to send aid as soon as the weather allows it."

Ortega adds that Sweden, the USSR, Mexico, and several international organizations are willing to contribute aid. Speaking in Managua's Acagualinca neighborhood, President Ortega says the government will need Nicaraguans

to rebuild their houses in the most severely affected areas such as Rama, Nueva Guinea, La Gateada, Villa Sandino, and many other regions. Ortega says: "We will recover from this disaster."

Ortega notes that the hurricane is not completely out of Nicaragua, "because in keeping with its northward movement, the hurricane will now be affecting the western part of Nicaragua, which has not been affected yet."

Ortega adds that damage in Managua was less than expected, but central and southern Nicaragua were seriously damaged. Ortega says: "This is the greatest natural disaster ever experienced by Nicaragua in terms of property damage." In reply to the question of how many people were killed by the hurricane, Ortega says the government only has preliminary information, because there are still many people missing.

Finally, Ortega directly addresses residents of various neighborhoods and tells them the government will attend to their needs as conditions allow.

Ortega concludes by saying there are 1,400 people at the Managua airport who were left homeless and that the population must be patient and take into account the various needs and the fact that the hurricane has not yet left Nicaragua.

Food, Clothing Drive Urged

PA2310225488 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2022 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Speech by Omar Cabezas, first vice interior minister and Sandinist Defense Committee (CDS) national coordinator; place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] Nicaraguan people, after the departure from our territory of the worst part of the devastating Hurricane Joan, or Joanne, or whatever its name, we can say that in the Atlantic region, Corn Island was virtually wiped out. All that is left there are its people and the clothing they have on their backs. The same applies to Bluefields. El Rama was almost completely destroyed, as was Nueva Guinea. Acoyapa, La Gateada, and some parts of Region 5 were also severely damaged. Fortunately, Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, and part of Region 5 were much less affected.

We believe that, at this moment, when our brothers have been wiped out and have nothing left, at this moment of crisis and pain, human values should rise to the surface. It is the time when man's purest and most noble values must clearly emerge. In this respect, thanks to the fact that we were not so strongly hit in Managua and other northern and Pacific coastal regions, the CDS and I as its national coordinator want to invite and appeal to the Nicaraguan Lions Clubs, the Rotary Clubs in our country, the Gray Ladies [Damas Grises] of the nation, ECLA, various religious organizations, the Federation of Secondary School Students—that is, all civic, social, and political organizations of every kind—to form a national aid committee for our Atlantic coast brothers and for Region 5. Starting Tuesday, we will all begin a campaign in our country to collect all kinds of foodstuffs to send to our brothers.

It is true that the Pacific coast and other regions were affected, but this is nothing compared to the cities, which have virtually disappeared, leaving only their people, who are waiting for our hands to reach out and help them. We want to start a campaign to collect clothing and food—everything that we can possibly do without—to send to our brothers. No one is going to be any poorer if he donates a shirt, a pair of pants, one cordoba, a few beans, or an aspirin for a headache to be sent to our brothers on the Atlantic coast. [passage omitted]

Managua Damage

PA2410004088 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2222 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Communique No 3 issued by the Region 3 Regional Defense Committee "to the people of Managua" and signed by coordinator Carlos Carrion Cruz—date not given]

[Text] Managua has managed to withstand the onslaught of Hurricane Joan successfully. The people's organization and discipline, as well as the mobilization of several thousand FSLN members, EPS soldiers, Sandinist Police, and revolutionary government officials have been crucial to achieving this goal and avoiding the excessive loss of lives. We are presently carrying out the following actions to repair the damage caused by the hurricane:

1. Verification and restoration of electricity service. Our priority in this area is to restore the operations of the Carlos Fonseca and Asososca Lake water wells. We have already begun to pump water, which will reach Managua districts as soon as the water lines and tanks are filled. There are 18 INE [Nicaraguan Institute of Energy] crews working together with the EPS to accomplish this task.

2. Families who have permanently lost their homes are being identified and a census is being taken of the families that have suffered serious damage to their homes. In so doing, the revolutionary government will be able to guarantee its assistance.

3. On 21 October, more than 80,000 people were protected in Region 3 shelters. At this time, most of these people have returned to their homes.

4. Engineering crews have been assessing Managua streets since Saturday night. They are clearing the trees blocking public roads and making minor repairs to the streets and to western open sewer ditches.

5. Managua's population and its municipalities must join the repair activities tomorrow, Monday, 24 October. The workers must come to production and service centers to clean them up and get them in working order to restart production.

6. Physical damage to Managua is minor compared to the total destruction of Bluefields, Corn Island, Rama, and other communities. We must be aware that we are experiencing a national catastrophe and that this situation requires that Region 3 give full solidarity to the residents in the southern Atlantic coastal region. All forces in Managua should promote moral and physical acts of solidarity to help southern Atlantic coast residents. All of Managua should contribute in some way to help our coastal brothers.

7. Managua residents must support the street work under way by sweeping the accumulated debris and burying it or taking it to the the closest dump.

8. While all these actions are being carried out and to enable us to handle any future problems, we will support the Regional Defense Committee's mandates.

Long live heroic Managua! Let us all join civil defense.

[Signed] Carlos Carrion Cruz, Coordinator

Hurricane Reporting Restrictions Decried
PA2210025388 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Oct 88 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "An Absurd and Illegal Prohibition"]

[Excerpts] In another section of this issue, we published the absurd and illegal prohibition sent to us by the director of the Nicaraguan Media Directorate regarding the dissemination of information on Hurricane "Joan." If we had not realized the dark, political interests behind the order to hush up reports on the hurricane, the whole prohibition would be completely incomprehensible.

While an entire news network of popular solidarity has been formed in Costa Rica to foresee the hurricane's force and to offer effective advice for Costa Ricans, the Nicaraguan Government has ordered that no one, except the official government media—which generally never reports anything—is to report anything on the hurricane. [passage omitted]

We hope that the hurricane does not harm us. We also hope that, at the last minute, it will change its course, return to the ocean, and disappear without harming any other sister nation. If, however, the hurricane continues its course and hits with the strength foreseen in press agency reports, we can expect very serious property damage and many deaths in our country.

As usually happens in these cases, the hurricane will also expose government deficiencies, a lack of foresight, the stupidity of some government officials, and the shortcomings of a government, which, because of its totalitarianism, suppresses national creativity. That is the reason behind the prohibition. It is very primitive to take precautions by simply prohibiting everyone from talking about the phenomenon.

EPS on 25th Honduran Military 'Attack' in Oct
PA2110164388 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1220 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry reported last night that on 18 October in (Morocuchi), Honduran Army troops perpetrated their 25th attack since the end of September against a Nicaraguan Army observation post. The post is located only 3 km from Teotecacinte. The harassment involved strafing by 50-mm [as heard] machineguns.

Nicaragua has repeatedly called attention to the Reagan administration's interest in using these incidents to provoke confrontations between the two countries' armies so that U.S. troops could go to the aid of the Honduran troops and justify its direct military intervention against Nicaragua.

Panama

Civilians 'Attacked' by Costa Rican Guards
PA2110163282 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 21 Oct 88 pp 1, 27

[Text] Several Panamanian citizens reported being attacked by Costa Rican guardsmen who crossed the border a few days ago.

Domingo Arauz, Michel Marvis, Avencio Miranda, and "Tacho" Arauz, residents of Canas Gordas and Los Planes, appeared before Major Luis A. Del Cid, head of the Panama Defense Forces' Military Zone No 5, to complain of abuses against them and their property by Costa Rican guards under the command of Lieutenant Franklyn Navarro, in charge of the Canas Gordas police garrison, Costa Rican section.

"Tacho" Arauz, one of those affected, said several shots were fired at him. Michel Marvis told Maj Del Cid Costa Rican guards pointed guns at him inside his own house, in Panamanian territory.

Panamanian nationals Felipe Santos and Ruben Dario Valdes Arosemena said they had been arrested inside Pananamian territory by Costa Rican guards; shut inside a cell at a Costa Rica police garrison, where they were beaten; had their lives threatened; and had their personal property confiscated.

In view of the situation, farmers of the Panamanian villages of Rio Sereno, Canas Gordas, and Los Planes have requested the Panamanian authorities take energetic measures to end these irresponsible and provocative actions by the Costa Rican guards in the territory of the Republic of Panama.

Victim Comments

PA2310125288 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Because of reports on actions by Costa Rican guardsmen against poor Panamanian workers at the border, this station interviewed some of the peasants who have been mistreated by the guardsmen.

Heavily armed Costa Rican civil and rural guardsmen have been harassing poor peasants from Canas Gordas village, near the Costa Rican border. The guardsmen have seized coffee bags from the peasants and have jailed, beaten, and even threatened to kill the peasants in a clear provocation and violation of Panamanian territory. The victims have said they are unaware of the reasons for the actions by the Costa Rican guardsmen, who have violated the peasants' dignity as men and especially as Panamanians.

Domingo Arauz, Michel Marvis, Benicio Miranda, Felipe Santos, and Ruben Valdes, who are all peasants living in the border area, told their story to Wilfredo Da Silva, our correspondent in Chiriqui Province.

[Begin recording] [Peasant] On 18 October, Costa Rican guardsmen entered 5 meters past the border marker onto our coffee plantation and seized a few bags of coffee. They claimed the coffee was from a... [changes thought] They did not know where the coffee came from, but they came here and seized the coffee.

[Da Silva] In addition to seizing the coffee, what other actions have they carried out?

[Peasant] There were some 20 or 30 Costa Rican guardsmen stopping anyone passing by. The guardsmen asked them where they were coming from, where they were going, and what their names were. I was displeased to see Costa Rican guardsmen had crossed onto this side of the border. That is what the border markers are for. The Panamanian guardsmen may have to investigate this. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Noriega on 'Brutal, Merciless Aggression' of U.S.

PA2210013888 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2228 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Speech by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, at the closing session of the meeting of Latin American and Caribbean youth and students at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] We are proud to have you here in Panama today. You are in Panama, which is one of Latin America's open veins. It is a great honor for us to close this meeting of Latin American and Caribbean Youth for the consolidation of Latin America's independence, democracy, and integration. Panama and patriotic Panamanians are proud to be your hosts.

This is a historic event. For the first time, students and political youths representing a wide spectrum of modern ideology, who are taking part in the struggle to determine mankind's future, meet on this continent. I must warn and tell the enemies of Latin American dignity that this kind of meeting, the matters analyzed by its participants, the historic commitment made, the sacred oath made during man's purest stage of life—his youth—is a historic moment during which a man will become a rebel or he will never be one; a time when his noble ideals constitute the weapons for action and combat. It is at that time, then, and today, when the vaccination against cowardice, against submissiveness and servitude are inoculated into the human body in the form of liberation. [passage omitted].

The sacrifice of youths who paid a high price for their ideals has not been in vain. Their patriotic spirit, national pride, progressive social ideas, and their quota of blood and sacrifice have contributed to maintaining the ideals of youth in the democratic principles you have mentioned here and that are already proliferating on the American Continent.

Our nations are sleeping on a powder keg. Unemployment, poverty, hunger, malnutrition, and ignorance, which are chronic social blights on the American Continent, have worsened dangerously with the foreign debt crisis. The latter represents a knight of despair and destruction that has been added to the classical continental riders of the apocalypse, who are galloping on the spinal cord of the Indian, dark, and homogeneous America. The adjustment programs and austerity prescribed by the IMF and our international creditors are a threat to domestic peace and stability. The more we save in order to pay our creditors, the more we will increase the misery, suffocating anguish, and desperation of our peoples, and the farther we will be from the end of the tunnel.

The empire's politicians continue to play with fire. The powder keg will blow up in their faces, because nations are becoming less manageable. The traditional political class subordinated to the establishment policy will be eliminated, washed out by millions of people demanding bread, work, education, and dignity; by those who demand a ray of hope as the year 2000 approaches; by those who demand, on the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution next year, that their humanistic ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity be fully respected. [passage omitted]

Those who are immobilized by their ties with the stars and stripes and cling to Uncle Sam's beard are trying to save themselves from the inexorable punishment that history reserves for traitors, turncoats, and lackeys who can be bought for a pittance. [applause] Those traitors...

[changes thought] This congress, these youths, and these men, who will be Latin America's strict, permanent, and perfectionist leaders, will sweep aside those traitors with the avalanche that is being prepared as a surprise for the year 2000. [applause]

Panama has been withstanding a brutal and merciless aggression in every sector for over a year. The aggression is being perpetrated by the U.S. Government and ultraconservative members of Congress. No other Latin American or Caribbean nation has ever been subject to such brutal attempts to destroy its economic structure and to subjugate it through starvation, or to such a merciless psychological war and shameful misinformation campaign waged at an international level. This brutal campaign has been coldly planned against Panama in the air conditioned offices of so many interventionist U.S. agencies and by those whose strategy has been based on invasions and on subjugating the free people of this Indian America.

The main neo-imperialist objective is clear and has been unmasked before the world. The letter and spirit of the 1977 Torrijos-Carter treaties have been violated and trampled upon. The U.S. Government wants to annihilate the nationalist Panamanian Government and Armed Forces and to impose on our country a lackey government that allows the United States to trample on and violate its legal commitment to turn over the Panama Canal on 31 December 1999. [applause]

The refrain: They will leave, no doubt about that! must become the rallying cry for our struggle because—and this congress has reasserted it—all the U.S. military and espionage structures must be dismantled in our territory by noon on 31 December 1999. Our struggle is being strengthened by you and by the real and effective solidarity received from the main liberation movements in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the world, as well as by progressive organizations in other countries.

This congress of youths and students confirms once more that solidarity with Panama is not a mere phrase. When the mountain blazed with idealism in the sixties, we had a holocaust. The youths paid a high price for their emotion, inexperience, and excessive idealism. I analyze the experience as a military officer and a Latin American, and I recommend that you maintain the struggle and firmness of your ideals.

You must learn to keep your ideals so that a holocaust is only a last resort. This struggle must be intelligent, conscientious, and tactical. We must not and these youths must not glorify death. Our enemies want us to glorify it. We must and we will glorify life because our struggle is life. We will glorify life because 1989—the dawn of the year 2000—must find us alive and on our feet. [applause]

I bring an official Panama Defense Forces proposal to your plenum: I propose that the next time the congress of youths and students meet—to present your concerns, to debate your positions, and to reach agreements—the meeting be held right here on 14 July 1989. It will be a solemn tribute rendered by all the Latin American political youths and students to the great French Revolution that marked the beginning of the end for injustice and despotism, a revolution that nourished Bolivar's dream for a free and united America. [applause]

Latin American, Caribbean, and world youths and students: The time of the people has come and, at this time, the youth forces, the young men, are in command. They are at the vanguard of the struggling forces because they are the ones responsible for placing the flag of dignity on our conquered objective. [applause; crowd shouts: "Not a step backwards!"]

Ritter Says No Talks With U.S. Under Way

PA2110163088 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 20 Oct 88 p 8

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter has stated that "there are no official or unofficial talks or contacts between the Panamanian and U.S. Governments" to normalize their relations.

Ritter also reported that to date "there have been no official negotiations for Isaac Rodriguez, secretary general of the Union of Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification Workers, to leave the country" in exile. Rodriguez, who is accused by military intelligence of participating in a plan to overthrow the government, has been in the apostolic nunciature for the past few days.

On another topic, the foreign minister announced that just as it did at the United Nations, Panama will speak at the OAS on the topic of U.S. "aggression" and violations of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

FDP Willing To Talk 'Without Preconditions'

PA2110231588 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 21 Oct 88 p A-1

[Unattributed article: "Defense Forces Willing To Hold Dialogue Without Preconditions"]

[Text] Regarding a communique issued by the Permanent Council of the National Civic Crusade yesterday, the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] reaffirms to the people that it has always been willing to talk without preconditions of any kind.

We have put out a few feelers and replied to certain requests for dialogue. The people and certain influential personalities in the area know this. Unfortunately, the opposition parties and business organizations are too

divided and preoccupied with resolving their internal disputes and do not seem to be capable of agreeing on their representatives or on drafting a program to discuss at the dialogue.

We remind the Civic Crusade Council that the FDP is part of a group of political, social, and institutional organizations that are already participating in a national dialogue convened by the FUP [People's Unity Front] with a program of regular meetings.

We hope that the opposition will recover the common sense and calmness that are necessary for dialogue. We reaffirm through the FUP our willingness to hold a dialogue among Panamanians but not with agendas or plans from the U.S. Embassy.

Opposition Demands Conditions

PA2110164988 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 20 Oct 88 p 2

[Text] Enrique Victoria, a member of the Panamanian Presidential Advisory Commission [Comision Asesora de la Presidencia de la Republica], has reported that "the second meeting between the Presidential Advisory Commission and the group of clergymen who offered to act as mediators to achieve understanding [between the government and the opposition] was blocked by the opposition, which sent a document setting conditions for a dialogue."

Father Nestor Jaen delivered the opposition document to the commission. It demands, among other things, the reopening of the recently closed media and full exercise of constitutional rights.

Agreement on Dialogue Need

PA2110233788 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2150 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 21 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—The Panama Defense Forces, Acting President Manuel Solis Palma, and the Panamanian political opposition agreed today on the need for dialogue to end the 17-month crisis in the country. They disagreed, however, on the preconditions and scope of these negotiations.

In reply to a FDP communique issued today proposing a dialogue without preconditions, the opposition leaders stated that they want to negotiate directly with the FDP but that the dialogue must be based on respect for human and constitutional rights and be preceded by the reopening of the press that has been closed.

Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the second most important opposition party, the Christian Democratic Party, stated today that "we are willing to negotiate to find a democratizing national solution." He added that the dialogue must be held "directly with the FDP."

People's Action Party President Carlos Ivan Zuniga said that the opposition "agrees to a dialogue" with the church as a "mediator." However, Zuniga has the same opinion as other opposition leaders: "Dialogue cannot be initiated with restricted public liberties." [passage omitted]

Zuniga stated that the FDP's call for negotiations with the opposition is "arrogant" and that he does not believe this attitude is "conducive to dialogue."

The minister in charge of the Presidency, Manuel Solis Palma, stated today that he agrees with the FDP's position of holding a dialogue "without preconditions."

Solis Palma said that the only condition that the government demands from the opposition is that they "release the country from the aggression they have inflicted upon it."

For the past 2 months, the Catholic and Anglican Episcopal Churches have been promoting contacts between the opposition leaders, the government, and the FDP to agree to a dialogue.

Casualties, Damage From Hurricane Joan Reported

PA2210172188 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 22 Oct 88 pp 20, 12

[Article by Damaris de Santamaria]

[Excerpts] The constant rains, accompanied by heavy winds, which have hit the country for the past 5 days have left 3 dead, approximately 400 people affected, 150 homes flooded, landslides, several rivers flooded, and many areas left isolated. The harsh weather in various parts of the country was caused by Hurricane Joan.

Information from our correspondents throughout the country enable us to report that yesterday a stretch of the Panamerican Highway, near the Tole District, was cut off for several hours due to landslides that blocked the highway. [passage omitted]

In addition, constant rain in Tonosi, Veraguas Province, caused flooding. Strong currents eroded the base of the Guaniquito River bridge. One peasant drowned in the strong current.

Our correspondents report that in Camino Rodeo Viejo, Sona, Veraguas, two people were drowned when they tried to cross the river on horseback. One of the victims was Juan Torres, a 33-year-old peasant. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Sarney Reacts To U.S. Retaliatory Measures

PY2210141288 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] The adoption of retaliatory measures means giving up diplomatic resources. This was stated by President Jose Sarney in reaction to the U.S. Government trade retaliations against Brazil.

President Sarney believes that diplomacy is the art of talking and solving problems peacefully. He said he does not understand why, throughout the past 3 years, the United States has been adopting increasingly extreme positions in its relations with Brazil.

The president considered the U.S. policy of intimidation as mistaken, saying we must react with absolute calm but also with firmness, because Brazil is not interested in its relations with the United States becoming emotional.

Sarney stressed that Brazil will defend its interests at the GATT in the meeting that will start on 27 October in Punta del Este, Uruguay.

Foreign Minister Comments

PY2210134988 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] In Leningrad, Brazilian Foreign Minister Roberto de Abreu Sodre has said that the Brazilian communique on the U.S. retaliations was approved by President Sarney.

In an interview with journalist Irineu Tamanini, Minister Abreu Sodre said the Brazilian Foreign Ministry communique is not intended to provoke a confrontation.

[Begin recording] [Sodre] [Words indistinct] it is calm, it is not meant to cause a confrontation, but it is a definitive communique. We will seek the appropriate forum to discuss this subject, that is, the GATT.

[Tamanini] The retaliation is for chemical products.

[Sodre] Yes, chemical products, but it affects more our electronic products, the [words indistinct] and pharmaceutical chemicals.

[Tamanini] If Brazil resorts to the GATT, what position will this organization adopt?

[Sodre] [Words indistinct] the United States has really committed an act of violence. [end recording]

Official on Mission to U.S.

PY2210191288 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] A Brazilian diplomatic mission will depart tomorrow for Washington to discuss trade issues. Acting Foreign Minister Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima has said that the retaliatory measures applied by the United States on Brazilian exports due to disagreements on patent rights for pharmaceutical products will not be discussed.

Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre, currently in Europe accompanying President Jose Sarney, has even considered canceling this Brazilian diplomatic mission to the United States because of the issue.

However, the Brazilian Foreign Ministry has just reported that the trip will be made. The mission is comprised of three diplomats, headed by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima. He has guaranteed that he will not discuss the Brazilian policy for pharmaceutical products, which provoked the U.S. retaliatory measures this week with U.S. officials.

[Begin Flecha de Lima recording] I am not going to the United States to discuss pharmaceutical products. I am going there to discuss our bilateral relations. [end recording]

Chile

Pinochet Accepts Resignation of 9 Ministers

PY2110172288 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1658 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Report by Graciela Contreras from Government House]

[Text] The press office of the Presidency has just released the following communique:

During today's cabinet meeting at 1200, the president of the Republic rejected the resignations which were tendered yesterday by the following ministers: Sergio Fernandez, interior minister; Patricio Carvajal Prado, defense minister; Hernan Buchi, finance minister; Manuel Concha Fernandez, economy minister; Juan Guzman Molinares, education minister; Hugo Rosende, justice minister; Bruno Siebert Held, public works minister; Juan Giaconi Gandolfo, health minister; Sergio Melnick, head of the ODEPLAN [National Planning Office]; Hernan Brady Roche, presient of the Nuclear Energy Commission; and Guillermo Letelier Skinner, executive vice president of CORFO [Production Development Corporation]. We reiterate that the president has rejected the resignation of the above mentioned ministers.

However, the president of the Republic has accepted the resignations of the following ministers: Ricardo Garcia Rodriguez, foreign affairs minister; Jorge Prado Aranguiz, agriculture minister; Jorge Veloso Bastias, national property minister; Alfonso Marquez de la Plata, labor minister; Samuel Lira Ovalle, mining minister; Miguel Angel Poduje, housing minister; Jorge Massa Armijo, transportation minister; Orlando Poblete, minister secretary general of government; and Sergio Valenzuela Ramirez, minister secretary general of the Presidency.

We reiterate that these are the ministers whose resignations the president has accepted.

It was also reported that the new cabinet members will be sworn in today at 1800 in the Hall of Honor in Government House.

Fernandez Departure Agreed

PY2110210088 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2042 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Excerpt President Augusto Pinochet has accepted the irrevocable resignation submitted by Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez. This information was released here at La Moneda Palace a few minutes ago, in an official communique.

The communique states that the president today accepted the irrevocable resignation that Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez Fernandez submitted after he was confirmed in his post during a meeting of the ministers of state this afternoon.

The communique adds that in his resignation, Minister Fernandez reiterated to Pinochet his gratitude for the confidence that the president had in him. [passage omitted]

New Ministers Named

PY2110231288 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2133 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Decrees read by Interior Ministry Under Secretary Alberto Cardemil Herrera during swearing-in ceremony of new cabinet members at La Moneda Palace in Santiago—live]

[Text] Supreme Decree No 1364
Santiago, 21 October 1988

In keeping with the provisions of Article 32, No 9, of the Chilean Constitution, I hereby decree:

Article 1. Effective today, the resignations tendered by Mr Ricardo Garcia Rodriguez, foreign affairs minister; Mr Jorge Prado Aranguiz, agriculture minister; Carabineros Inspector General Jorge Veloso Bastias, national-property minister; Mr Alfonso Marquez de la Plata Irarrazabal, labor and social security minister; Mr Samuel Lira Ovalle, mining minister; Mr Miguel Angel Poduje Sapiain, housing and urbanization minister; Air Force Brigadier General Jorge Massa Armijo, transportation and telecommunications minister; and Mr Orlando Poblete Iturrate are hereby accepted.

Article 2. Effective today, the following people are hereby appointed as secretaries of state:

Mr Hernan Felipe Errazuriz Correa as foreign minister;
Mr Jaime de la Sota Benavente as agriculture minister;
Mr Armando Alvarez Marin as national property minister;
Mr Guillermo Arthur Errazuriz as labor and social security minister;
Mr Pablo Baraona Urzua as mining minister;
Mr Gustavo Montero Saavedra as housing and urbanization minister;
Mr Carlos Silva Echiburu as transportation and telecommunications minister; and
Mr Miguel Angel Poduje Sapiain as minister secretary general of government.

Proforma

[Signed] Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, Army General and President of the Republic
Sergio Fernandez Fernandez, Interior Minister

Supreme Decree No 1365
Santiago, 21 October 1988

In keeping with the provisions of Article 52, No 9, of the Chilean Constitution, I hereby decree:

Article 1. Effective today, the resignation tendered by Mr Sergio Fernandez Fernandez, interior minister, is hereby accepted.

Article 2. Effective today, Mr Carlos Caceres Contreras is hereby appointed interior minister.

Proforma

[Signed] Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, Army General and President of the Republic
Sergio Fernandez Fernandez, Interior Minister

Pinochet Speaks at Ceremony

PY2110235988 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2150 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Speech by President Augusto Pinochet Ugarte during installation ceremony of new cabinet members at La Moneda Palace in Santiago—live]

[Text] Gentlemen state ministers, generals and admirals, and under secretaries:

The country has been witness to the loyalty with which this government has adhered in all its actions to the constitutional norms. These norms were established by an overwhelming majority of the people who voted for the Constitution. With firm determination, all the necessary steps to restore a full democratic institutional order have been taken. This includes accepting the decision of the 5 October plebiscite, the results of which have been accepted with the same resoluteness.

This attitude demonstrates very well that all that has been said with ill-intention about us both in Chile and abroad for the last 15 years is wrong. We, therefore, have the moral authority to publicly demand that the opposition parties and groups define their position without reticence. In this regard, I must ask them whether they maintain or wish to modify their position that they supported during the plebiscite to dismantle the regime. The government, with good reason, demands a definition that goes beyond ambiguous, twisted, or turbid formulas. As far as we are concerned, we emphatically declare that we are determined to abide by the constitutional norms, and that, consequently, I will hand over the post I hold to whomever the citizenry, in free, secret, and openly campaigned elections, elects on 14 December 1989.

I thus will comply with the commitment I have assumed. But I warn those who want to depart from the Constitution or who propose formulas to modify its essential provisions, even before they go into effect, that our purpose is to maintain the constitutional text intact, since it represents the will of the majority of the people of Chile and provides a framework consistent with the substantial values they uphold. The respect for the majority of the people is loyal and irrevocable. (?As has been proposed) by the commanders in chief of the Armed Forces and the Carabineros director general. [sentence as heard] The Constitution establishes precise rules that we will abide by, the consequences of which we will assume without hesitation.

I cannot but point out that the attitude of some opposition groups does not seem reasonable. Although they question the legitimacy of the new institutional order, they now seek protection under it to demand presidential and congressional elections simultaneously, as well as other political changes aimed at destabilizing the government and at creating a vacuum of power that might precipitate a crisis nobody wants, a crisis we will try to avoid at all costs and with all our strength.

Gentlemen, the Constitution will not be modified. Constitutional reform is not at issue, nor will it be a matter of negotiation or renunciation. The government will continue with its plans with determination. It is true that in the future we will have to place emphasis on the solution of social problems that have gone unresolved so far, social problems that are the unavoidable consequence of the profound transformations brought about in the area of the economy in recent years. In this regard, I want to insist that Chile would never have achieved adequate levels of growth had it not previously tackled this type of reform which, although it hurt the interests of many sectors, was imperative in order to benefit the entire country.

I fully assume the responsibility for having acted in the way I have, without demagoguery, populism, and publicity. I have at times even had to confront the misunderstanding of my fellow countrymen.

I am sure that in the future the country will be able to attain steady growth on the basis of the pillars that we have built, despite the fact that this process has unfairly reduced the support that the government enjoyed in some sectors of the population.

Gentlemen, history will impartially pass judgement on our conduct and on the results that were achieved.

The institutional task that began with the 1980 Constitution is based upon freedom and human rights, rather than on the boundless expansion of the state, as happened in the past. Our philosophy is to protect Chileans from entangling bureaucracy and to give them the opportunity to fully develop to their capacity. If we continue along this path, we will be able to reach our major goals in the future and we will command a leading position among the nations of this continent.

To government supporters and to the opposition I should frankly say that the country cannot live through another totalitarian period. To counter this ever-present danger, it is necessary to count on something more than the resolute will of the Armed Forces and the forces of order and their loyalty to the system of government. It is necessary that those who believe in freedom, democracy, and in our traditional spiritual values strengthen their conscience, their unity, and their active involvement.

The responsibility for the continuation of this work has now been placed in the hands of all Chileans. Paramount at this moment is the obligation to continue and consolidate the progress achieved since 1973 through the permanent efforts of the government and those governed.

On reshuffling the cabinet, I gave particular consideration to the fact that we are in a new stage, with new requirements and new demands. The government must adjust its administrative team in this stage, which will be the last one of my presidential term.

I want to thank the ministers who are leaving their posts for the sacrifices they have made and for the patriotism, generosity, and loyalty with which they have worked, particularly at this decisive historic moment. Thanks to their valuable help, we managed to lead the country along the course of democratic restoration without abuses or violence. Each one of them deserves my personal acknowledgment, and I am sure that the people are also grateful for what they have done... [changes thought] that is the Constitution, and which has been carried out without any type of disruption.

As far as I am concerned, being at peace with my own conscience, I will conclude my term and will give shelter and protection to all Chileans, and I will be on the alert to denounce and punish those who instigate the nefarious class struggle, which is repudiated by a vast majority, who do not want to go through all that again. Those who seek to revive experiences of the past, which are already over, will crash against us.

I call on my fellow countrymen, beyond ideological or party differences, to build the future with the same patriotism with which the Armed Forces have undertaken this great task, to have firmness in overcoming the problems we are now confronting, and to never surrender freedom, true democracy, and the values which identify us as an independent, sovereign nation.

May Almighty God continue to bless our fatherland and all Chileans. Viva Chile!

Opposition Scores New Cabinet, Pinochet Speech

PY2310023488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1757 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Santiago, 22 Oct (EFE)—Today the new cabinet appointed by Chilean President Augusto Pinochet received support from right-wing leaders and by businessmen, but was rejected by several opposition sectors.

Leftist sectors have agreed that the new cabinet does not reflect any specific gesture by the military regime toward acting in accordance with the defeat suffered by Pinochet in the 5 October plebiscite.

Yesterday Pinochet installed nine new ministers, including a new interior minister, Carlos Caceres, an economist who replaced Sergio Fernandez.

Ricardo Lagos, president of the opposition Party for Democracy (PPD), describes Caceres' appointement as "a comedy. To appoint the treasurer of the yes-vote campaign as interior minister shows disrespect for the people's will."

In a statement to EFE, Lagos said that the cabinet reshuffle was a secondary matter and that the main thing is "what Pinochet said," that there will be no negotiations to either move up the 1989 general election date or to amend the Constitution.

Andres Zaldivar, a former senator, and vice president of the Christian Democratic Party, today said: "there has been no change in the cabinet. There are new names, but they all have the same faces. I am not surprised at all."

Commenting on Pinochet's announcement that there will be no changes in the timetable for restoring a civilian government, Zaldivar said: "Everyone is aware of Pinochet's intransigent position. We have known Pinochet for 15 years, and I do not believe he could have changed overnight. He has a fixed, absolutely antidemocratic way of thinking. All he wants is to stay in power until the end, without allowing any transition."

Jose Sanfuentes, a leading member of the outlawed Communist Party, said: "Pinochet is being increasingly isolated since no one wants to be his minister. His speech was virtually an act of provocation to the Chilean people; it was a declaration of war." [passage omitted]

Colombia

Hurricane Leaves 25,000 Homeless in Cartagena

PA2110161488 Paris AFP in Spanish 1428 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] Cartagena, Colombia, 21 Oct (AFP)—The aftereffects of Hurricane Joan, now moving toward Nicaragua and Costa Rica, have caused serious damage in makeshift homes in Cartagena, leaving 25,000 persons homeless, according to Mayor Manuel Domingo Rojas.

Rojas declared this Caribbean port in a state of social and health emergency, ordering medical assistance by paramedics to inhabitants of remote regions, where some 600 families lost their homes and were seeking help from the local authorities.

Some 600 tourists, especially U.S. and Canadian citizens, received instructions to remain in Cartagena, where they arrived at midweek.

The waters of the Atlantic Ocean were washing up 4- to 5-meter- high waves, flooding the heavily populated areas of La Boquilla, El Laguito, Las Americas, Las Palmeras, El Libano, and the zone of Boca Grande, the elite sector of Cartagena de Indias.

Joan, which left at least 20 victims after passing through the Colombian Guajira peninsula on the Venezuelan border, resumed its course this morning across the Caribbean, causing damage to San Andres Island, 888 km from this city.

Cartagena, capital of the northwestern department of Bolivar, resembled a bombed city today with flooded streets filled with ocean debris such as canoes, huge pieces of wood, rocks, many fish, and of course, plenty of sand. The Caribbean Sea waters that entered the city,

primarily in the old sectors, registered levels between 1.5 and 2 meters above sea level, which is below the minimum construction requirements.

The situation has caused concern, because of the strong waves this morning and because a dozen fishermen who sailed from the bay yesterday morning have not been heard from since.

Initial estimates establish that 12,000 [number as received] persons were left homeless.

A similar number were suffering the wind and water effects of Joan, which at 1400 GMT today was moving in a northwesternly direction toward the Colombian island of San Andres. It is anticipated that Joan will reach Nicaragua and Costa Rica tomorrow or the next day.

Guerrilla Plan Uncovered; Nation on 'Alert'

PA2410034788 Paris AFP in Spanish 2327 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Bogota, 23 Oct (AFP)—An escalation of terrorism in Colombia planned for next Thursday, to coincide with a general strike organized by the leftist CUT and the CGT [General Labor Confederation], was discovered and suppressed today by the authorities after they seized a confidential document outlining the plan.

The document put President Barco's liberal government on a state of alert. During a National Security Council meeting held a few hours ago, Barco drafted plans to keep public order.

The escalation of terrorism was to be carried out by the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board. The plan provided for the destruction of oil pipelines, highways, electric power and telephone networks, and public buildings. The plan also included ambushes and sabotage.

Army and police state intelligence services revealed that the Guerrilla Coordinating Board was also planning to take over the main communications media, newspapers, and radio stations.

The National Security Council announced today that all security measures have been adopted to counteract the planned actions.

According to the seized document, Bogota, Medellin, Barranquilla, Bucaramanga, Cucuta, Saravena, and the provinces of Cordoba, Uraba, and Barrancabermeja—all of which have been hit hard this year by guerrilla violence—were to be the terrorists' main targets.

The National Security Council will hold another meeting in Bogota on Monday to study new preventive measures to face the announced national strike to take place on Thursday. The purpose of the strike is to support a seven-point demand made to the government concerning food price controls and the eviction of foreign oil companies from the country.

At tomorrow's meeting, the confidential document will again be analyzed by the government, justice, defense, and foreign affairs ministers in order to approve and to enforce immediately a national plan for vigilance and public control.

The Guerrilla Coordinating Board wanted electric power industry employees to join the strike by creating blackouts in production sectors, and it called on peasants to block highways and march toward towns and cities.

Venezuela

Nontraditional Exports Increase in 1988

WA33480003b Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 18 Sep 88 p 20

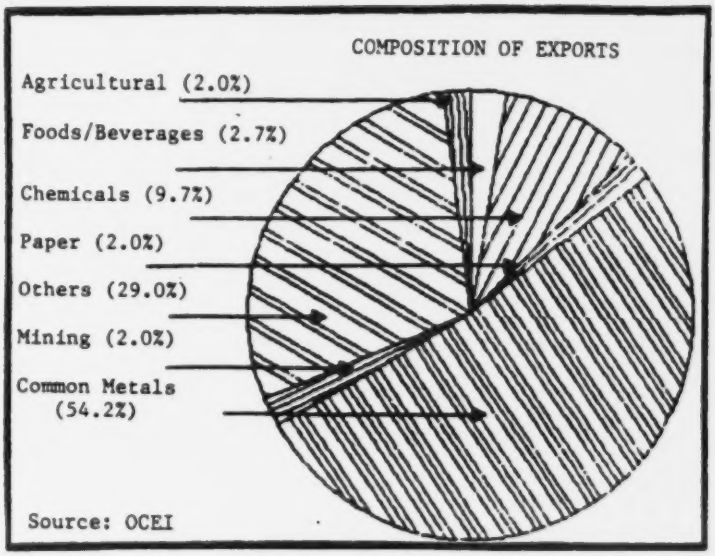
[Text] During the first quarter of this year, Venezuelan exports of nontraditional products increased at a rate of 67 percent, indicating that, by the end of 1988, exports amounting to approximately $1.9 billion might be achieved; that is, $500 million more than in 1987. According to figures provided by the Central Office of Statistics and Information Processing [OCEI] and interpreted by private analysts, that increment might be explained by the rise in aluminum prices and the inclusion of gold, exports of which have been estimated at $300 million.

Generally speaking, nontraditional sales, those other than iron and oil, underwent a considerable increase (82 percent) between 1982 and 1987, which, when added to the softness of the oil market, has increased their share of the country's total exports from 5 to 13 percent.

Nevertheless, the performance was not uniform. Following the 86 percent hike in 1984, sales remained stagnant for 3 years. Observers associated with the private sector note that this might reflect, on the one hand, the weakness of the exchange stimulus and, on the other, the decline in product competitiveness stemming from the rise in domestic price levels.

The trend was reversed this year, however, and the forecasts for the public sector's exports are encouraging.

In contrast to this, the private sector's exports have undergone a slight reduction as a result of the deterioration of the actual exchange rate, which has discouraged exports, particularly those of agricultural products and certain food products. Conversely, the private sector's "traditional" products have sustained their trend toward growth; chemical products, metal working, and electrical equipment show growth rates exceeding those for last year.



Suriname

Bouterse Reportedly 'Beaten' in Brazil

FL2110130788 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] New reports say Surinamese Army Commander Desi Bouterse was beaten in Brazil. He and seven members of his committee were apparently mistaken for common criminals by police in Sao Paulo and were arrested by a group of about 20 policemen. Although they showed their diplomatic papers, the men report that they were slapped and handcuffed before being jailed briefly.

Suriname has launched a formal complaint to the Brazilian Government over the incident.